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THE TIMES

No. 65,415

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3 1995

'Last bastion of liberal establishment'

Judges meet over splits with ministers

By FRANCES GIBB AND RICHARD FORD

AN UNPRECEDENTED rift has opened up between the Government and the judiciary over Michael Howard's plans to force judges to impose tougher sentences on hardened criminals.

Senior judges will discuss next week what action to take over the Home Secretary's party conference speech which prompted a furious and swift response from the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gossforth.

Whitehall officials have admitted privately that ministers are "gunning" for judges after a series of legal humiliations in the courts. At the same time, they feel judges are undermining their fight against crime by imposing soft sentences. One official said: "The judges are seen as the last bastion of the liberal establishment."

But the judges, in turn, are smarting from a series of attacks, renewed by MPs and Ministers yesterday after Mr Justice Sedley's ruling on Wednesday that the Home Secretary's decision to ban the leader of the Moonies was "unlawful by reason of procedural unfairness".

Judges see repeated criticisms as part of a political campaign to undermine their independence and reputation. One High Court judge spoke of a "hate campaign... to pour poison on the views of the judiciary".

Yesterday David Faber, Tory MP for Westbury, was cheered by Conservative backbenchers when he said: "Yesterday's extraordinary court decision is yet another, further

example of the contempt with which some members of the judiciary seem to treat the views both of this House and of the general public."

Other judges criticised publicly, albeit in veiled terms, include Mr Justice Dyson and Mrs Justice Hale.

Yesterday Mr Howard voiced government concern on the BBC Radio 4 programme Today. "I think it is becoming increasingly more difficult to predict how the courts are

MACKAY PLEA TO THE PUBLIC

The Lord Chancellor has appealed to the public to support his proposed divorce reforms, declaring: "I am convinced they are right."

He launched his battle to keep the Bill in the next legislative programme after being forced into retreat on another new law to protect women and children. His measures have been opposed by Tories who fear for the party's family image...Page 2

going to react in what is clearly an expanding area of the law." He also said: "It is becoming quite difficult to predict with any accuracy how the judges are going to react."

Although his words were carefully chosen, the clear message was one of annoyance at the latest ruling against a ministerial decision.

Ann Widdecombe, the Minister for Prisons, echoed ministers' views at a confer-

ence on Wednesday, when she robustly defended Mr Howard's plans for tougher sentences, adding: "One of the objectives of the Home Secretary's new proposals on sentencing is to introduce greater certainty into the sentencing process, so that offenders know exactly what to expect if they continue offending."

Miss Widdecombe later appeared to rebuke the judges, including the Lord Chief Justice, saying: "I am quite worried about the pronouncements of some of the judges who appear to think that there is a policy role to be adopted by some of the judiciary."

Lord Taylor is due to meet other senior judges who make up the Judges' Council — the heads of High Court divisions — next week. Mr Howard's tougher sentencing plans, which the judges strongly oppose as fettering discretion, will be on the agenda.

The swift response of the country's most senior judge, within hours of Mr Howard's speech, was taken as an indication that Lord Taylor knew its content in advance, had made his views known, but had been ignored.

Ministers are angered both by the growing number of successful challenges to their actions through what is judicial review, as well as by judges pushing at the boundaries of judicial review itself and widening its scope.

One senior judge confirmed judicial review was expanding. He said: "Some argue that Continued on page 2, col 1

Moon abandons visit, page 2



Handicapped children with a teacher wave with relief as they are driven away after being hijacked on their way to school. The hijacker was shot dead by police outside a Miami Beach restaurant. Police said he had a grudge against American tax authorities. Report, page 12

15,000 bad teachers 'should be sacked'

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE chief inspector of schools called yesterday for 15,000 "incompetent" teachers to be sacked to raise education standards.

Chris Woodhead said that it was time to stop making excuses for poor lessons and to get rid of those who were letting their pupils down.

Britain needed a "culture change" to get tough with classroom incompetence, he said. "It is only a minority of teachers, but nevertheless they have a disproportionate impact on children's learning — such teachers cannot continue as teachers."

But teaching unions criticised Mr Woodhead's school

inspection agency, Ofsted, for judging teachers on a limited view of them in class.

Inspectors grade lessons on a scale from one for very good to five for very poor, and Ofsted said there could be nearly 15,000 teachers — 7,500 in secondary schools and 7,200 in primaries — on the bottom rung if the pattern of incompetence discovered at the 5,000 schools scrutinised since 1993 were repeated across all schools.

Mr Woodhead has often complained of the "stubborn one-third" of lessons that Ofsted has declared below standard and in comments to be broadcast on the BBC's Panorama on Monday, he said some 375,000 children were suffering. He said: "The



Woodhead: "It is time to stop making excuses"

impact of bad teaching is critically important. The future of our country depends on the quality of education that we are offering to our

children. So we cannot be in the business of making excuses."

Mr Woodhead's comments come days after a government "hit-squad" recommended the closure of Hackney Downs School in east London, effectively making 30 teachers redundant at a stroke. Ofsted has labelled more than 90 schools as failing, and more may be taken over and possibly closed.

His remarks angered teaching unions, however. Nigel de Gruchy, General Secretary of the NASUWT, said: "I am very surprised by these figures. The Government told the Teachers' Pay Review Body there was no need to put any extra funding for teachers pay because the quality and quan-

ity of the teaching force was fine."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, agreed that incompetent teachers should be forced out, but only after they had a chance to improve.

He said: "Mr Woodhead is extrapolating from snapshots of lessons observed over a limited period and making claims that cannot be supported by a proper appraisal. If a teacher is in difficulties, they should receive extra training and if that support has been provided, teachers who are still ineffective should be encouraged to leave. If that fails they should be asked to leave because there is no benefit from having an ineffective teacher in school."

Power deal heralds first super-utility

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT

IAIN LANG, President of the Board of Trade, has cleared the way for the creation of Britain's first super-utility by ruling that North West Water's £1.8 billion takeover of the electricity supply company Norweb need not be investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The decision was a snub to John Bridgeman, the Director General of Fair Trading, who wanted the merger vetted because he feared that a mixed utility could be harder to regulate, deter new competitors and breed inefficient management.

His advice was rejected by Mr Lang, who said: "My main concern in considering whether to make references continues to be the maintenance of competition." Mr Lang's view was supported by both companies' watchdogs.

North West Water has agreed changes that give regulators greater control and has pledged not to cut off customers of one utility for not paying bills to the other.

Brian Staples, North West Water, chief executive, hailed United Utilities, the merged company's proposed name, as a new flagship for the region. Sir Desmond Pither, North West chairman, appears to have softened the initial hostility of the Labour Party.

United Utilities hopes to save up to £100 million a year. The shareholders will be the first to benefit, but the savings will then be passed on to customers over the first five years of the next century.

Shares in Norweb jumped 23p yesterday morning and ended the day 30p up at £11.85. North West Water is expected to gain control on Monday.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



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The seven-day TV and radio guide

£800m more for Shephard as Bottomley fights on

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY was last night fighting a rearguard action against a Treasury demand for a cut of £60 million in the £1 billion National Heritage budget after warning the Cabinet it could be seen as a way of exploiting the National Lottery to fund tax cuts.

Most departments, including the high spenders of health, education and social security, agreed terms with the Treasury yesterday as the Cabinet took an important step towards settling the roughest Whitehall spending round in years.

Gillian Shephard emerged as one of the big winners by securing an extra £800 million for schools. Mrs Bottomley dug in her heels at the two-hour Cabinet, rejecting the Treasury demand, which was

backed by EDX, the Cabinet's spending committee. Last night, she had an emergency meeting with William Waldegrave, the Treasury Chief Secretary, and she may take her case back to the Cabinet on Monday.

The Heritage Secretary fears that the proposed £60 million cut — on top of £35 million taken out of her budget for next year — would leave the Government open to accusations that it is breaching the promise that National Lottery funds would be used only to top up spending on the arts, sport and heritage.

Before the meeting seven departments — National Heritage, the Foreign Office, Environment, Wales, Agriculture, Education and Scotland — were holding out for more money, but by last night their

numbers had been considerably narrowed.

Besides Mrs Bottomley, John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, was resisting an attempt to cut £400 million off the housing budget. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, was another winner, securing an extra £300 million for more operations and an extra 500 medical students.

The Treasury has been seeking an across-the-board cut of 5 per cent in areas not covered by manifesto pledges or ministerial commitments. Reductions will mainly be achieved by squeezing the £15 billion-a-year running costs of Whitehall departments and the £22 billion-a-year capital programme for new roads, schools, hospitals, and environmental and local authority projects.

Cash riddle as 'ex-spy' goes into the cold

By ANDREW PIERCE

A TOWN CLERK who went missing as £190,000 vanished from the council coffers has left a trail of clues to Moscow and a letter to his ex-wife saying "I cannot come back."

Gerry Taylor, 45, who said he was in naval intelligence with the rank of Lieutenant Commander, failed to return to his office at Whitworth Town Council, near Rochdale, Lancashire, on Monday after a two-week holiday. He had told

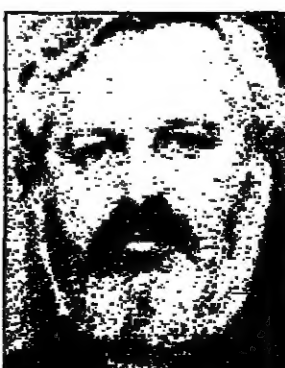
colleagues that he was spending his break in Russia.

The town clerk and finance officer left the mysterious letter for his former wife, Beryl, with strict instructions that she should not open it until October 27. Unfortunately for the council, Mrs Taylor headed his advice. Typed on a word processor, it said: "I will not be coming back. I cannot come back."

It also contained keys to the council's safes and security boxes, and indicated that he had left his car at the sea port in

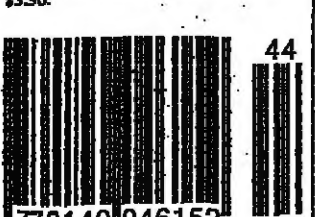
Hull. Mrs Taylor, who has two teenage sons, handed the letter to the police when they knocked at her door in Chadderton, near Oldham, on Tuesday. Detectives found the car, but they are convinced Mr Taylor is lying low in Britain and that the Russian holiday was part of an elaborate hoax.

Former colleagues of Mr Taylor, who regularly attended civic functions in full naval uniform, say that his favourite author is John Le Carré. He is fluent in



Taylor: £190,000 is missing at council

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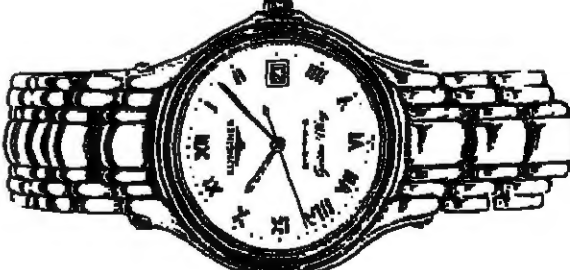
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Cool professional dodges strictures of a fiery preacher

"NO ONE," jeered Labour's Tony Banks (Newham NW) at John Major, "would accuse you of being a professional politician". The Prime Minister had been defending MPs' rights to privacy about earnings from parliamentary retainers. Mr Major had said it would be a pity if the House were stacked with nothing but professional politicians.

Banks raised a laugh but could hardly have been more wrong. Defending a decision which many believe Major privately regrets, the Prime

Minister yesterday looked and sounded every inch the skilled and steady fixer. Whatever else he was, he was superbly professional.

The present mood is against him: but is there not something magnificent in the sight of a commander trapped on near-indefensible terrain, a few of his men visibly panicking, keeping his head and coolly rallying his troops with the calm air and level speech of a leader confident both of his authority and the justice of his cause? "Give me

men," said Lord Melbourne once, "who will support me when I am wrong." Fate seems to have given the parliamentary Tory party such a man.

Major deserved a reward for *chutzpah*, at least, in the face of Tony Blair's lapel-clutching prose yesterday. The Labour leader might have done better to leave matters at his real question, precisely framed, which the PM skillfully ignored.

Mr Blair asked what could be the objection to an MP

stating the truth about his income from parliamentary work. Major replied that we should not "impede" such MPs. Blair went on to overstate his case wildly. Treating the dispatch box as a makeshift pulpit is becoming his habit. Adjectives like "squalid" (one of Blair's favourites) and "rotten" ripped the air as

he built up to his parboiled soundbite: "stain on his prime-ministership, swept from office..." etc. In the face of this, it was only necessary for Mr Major to seem unperturbed, which he did, for him to escape, which he did.

PM's Questions is a national institution and an opportunity for the face-pulling

and competitive bawling which yield useful clues about me and morale (the Tories' has been oddly high all autumn, Labour's oddly patchy). But there are days when you long for someone to listen to the answer, and react to it.

To Blair's question (why not state what is earned?) Major's response (that MPs should not be "impeded" in their outside work) assumed an unstated premise: that public knowledge of MPs' fees would discourage MPs from taking them. Was that what

the Prime Minister believed? It might have been interesting to hear Blair repeat his opinion that the Government is squalid.

Interestingly, precisely the same unstated premise had lurked behind an afternoon's disputation on this subject in the Lords on the previous day. It was protested that peers' work is essentially voluntary and unpaid, therefore why should they be hindered from taking paid jobs by any requirement to state what

Lord Weatherill described, with a shudder, as "the figures"?

But why would the need to disclose the figures hinder them from taking the job? Only if the public would disapprove! Throughout the debate in both Lords and Commons so far, parliamentarians have used the words "disclosure" and "discouragement" as though interchangeable. Why? Major was not asked why. All Labour did was rail at him, so he needed only to stay cool.



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Mackay campaigns to save Divorce Bill from Tory wreckers

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Lord Chancellor was fighting to keep his Divorce Law Reform Bill in the next legislative programme last night after being forced to retreat on new laws to protect women and children from violence in the home.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern assured Tory MPs that his proposals, under attack from some members of the Cabinet and viewed with suspicion by the party business managers, would not damage the Tories' family image.

In an unusual public appeal for his Bill, given the closeness of the Queen's Speech next Wednesday, he said in interviews last night that he hoped it would come forward as soon as possible, although he indicated that he would be prepared to accept amendments.

On Channel 4 News he said that he would put forward the proposals that had been contained in his White Paper: they had not been arrived at in a hurry and they had been subjected to wide consultation. However, like all other legislation, they would be open to amendment by anyone who

wanted to find better ways of dealing with this "very central issue of our social fabric".

Although a decision on the future of the Divorce Bill will not be taken until Monday, it was clear that Lord Mackay has made considerable headway in his attempt to persuade ministers that it should be included in the programme.

Some Tories fear the reform will encourage marriage break-ups by creating "no fault" divorces. But MPs who met Lord Mackay last night were reported to have been impressed by his arguments that it could boost the family. They pointed out that he had emphasised the reforms would end "quickie" divorces. Although the proposals reduce the maximum waiting period from five years to one year, in effect no one will be able to get divorced in the first two years of marriage. An application for divorce could not take place until after a year of marriage and it would take a further 12 months to get the divorce through.

It was also argued that the mediation proposals, and

those delaying divorces until after agreements had been reached about the custody and maintenance of children, were pro-family measures.

Peter Bottomley, MP for Eltham, who was at the meeting, said: "His proposals are ones which the Commons and Lords will want to consider... I expect the Bill to come to us."

A failure to bring forward the Divorce Bill would be a humiliation for Lord Mackay after his confirmation yesterday that the Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill was being dropped.

Labour yesterday blamed Tory rightwingers for wrecking the Domestic Violence Bill, which would have extended to unmarried women legal safeguards against domestic violence currently restricted to wives.

Lord Mackay said in a written parliamentary reply that he had listened to concerns expressed about the Bill and was considering them. "The timetable is such, however, that it is now impossible to make further progress this session."



Lord Mackay yesterday: will accept amendments

Labour attacks Major's snub to Nolan

By PHILIP WEBSTER

TONY BLAIR accused the Prime Minister of pandering to the "squalid monied interests" of the Conservative Party yesterday as fears grew among Tory MPs that they could lose their right to maintain the confidentiality of their outside earnings.

The Labour leader launched a concerted Commons attack on John Major's decision to reject the conclusion of the Nolan committee that MPs should declare their pay from external sources, warning him that he would leave a stain on his prime ministership and the Government. With Tory MPs looking on uneasily, Mr Major hit back during the angry exchanges to accuse Mr Blair of delivering a "party political rant" to win short-term gain.

But with about eight Conservative MPs expected to vote for disclosure of earnings in Monday's debate on Nolan, there were deep misgivings among ministers last night that Mr Major had decided to associate himself so strongly with a cause that will end in defeat at worst and a messy victory at best.

One minister said last night: "He should have stayed out of it and let the House decide. That way he could have kept the mud off him." But others disagreed, saying that Mr Major had no choice but to come down in favour of secrecy because the substantial majority of Tory MPs back it.

Monday's vote has turned into one of the most important of this Parliament. While technically a free vote, both sides are exerting stronger discipline on their MPs to be present than at any time for months. The outcome will turn on the presence or otherwise of the minority parties, although there were signs last night that a substantial number of Tory MPs are contemplating abstention. If so the Government would be beaten.

Mr Major said the income MPs earned for outside activities approved by Parliament was "a matter between them and the Inland Revenue inspectors".

Mr Blair said that disclosure had been a key recommendation of Nolan. "If now, in weakness, the Prime Minister goes back on his word to implement the report he commissioned, it will leave a stain on his prime ministership and his Government that will not be removed until this rotten administration is swept from office."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, warned Mr Major in a letter that he risked damaging not just his own party, but respect for Parliament.

Professor Anthony King of Essex University, a member of the Nolan committee, said that if the Commons did not support disclosure, the public would be "deeply displeased".

Moon abandons visit, page 2

Leading article, page 19

Judges meet over growing split with ministers

Continued from page 1

the test for judicial review, the test of reasonableness, is being diluted, as judges increasingly take account of other principles such as proportionality — whether the minister's decision was proportionate to what it was trying to achieve."

Ministers' annoyance has been fuelled by the European Court of Human Rights' rulings against the

Government and there is now support from some MPs to end people's right to petition to Strasbourg.

At the root of the rift, according to one High Court judge, is ministers' lack of understanding of the courts' role in ensuring that ministers act within the laws. Judges had stepped in to fill a vacuum left by Parliament.

Labour politicians, too, are worried about judges overstepping the mark.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, recently criticised Lord Woolf, Mr Justice Laws and Mr Justice Sedley for comments that "smacked of judicial supremacism".

Public complaints about judges have also been encouraged by Brian Mawhinney, Conservative Party Chairman, who openly invited people to criticise sentencing decisions with which they disagreed. One High Court

judge observed: "There is a hate campaign coming through sections of the media, to pour poison on the views of judiciary. Ministers and MPs are very bothered about Nolan and Scott [who are chairing public inquiries] so they have launched a pre-emptive strike, suggesting judges are acting out of line."

Mayhew announces further Ulster troop withdrawal

By NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Army in Northern Ireland is to return to its lowest level in ten years later this month after Sir Patrick Mayhew announced yesterday that 600 troops were to be withdrawn from the Province.

The troops, from 45 Commando, Royal Marines, who have been on a six-month tour of duty in Enniskillen, will return to base in Arbroath a month ahead of schedule. A

unit of Royal Irish Regiment soldiers who were due to replace them will remain on standby in Catterick.

The latest troop withdrawal, the third big reduction in numbers since the IRA ceasefire in August last year, brings to 1,600 the number of troops pulled out in the past year. By the end of this month there will be about 16,750 military personnel left in the Province.

The Northern Ireland Secretary said yesterday that the reduction was a further step

towards normality, underlining the Government's commitment to the peace process. "For the first time in many years, large parts of the Province are being patrolled by the RUC without direct Army support. This has been accompanied by other measures which have had the effect of reducing significantly the impact of the security situation on the people of Northern Ireland." Sinn Féin said the move illustrated the Government's slow response to the peace process.

Moon abandons his visit to Britain

By RICHARD FORD

THE leader of the Moonies yesterday abandoned his attempt to enter Britain to address 1,200 followers at a rally in London tomorrow.

Lawyers for the Rev Sun Myung Moon, leader of the Unification Church, announced that it was impractical to make representations at such short notice.

Mr Moon, 75, scheduled to arrive today, was banned because his presence was

"not conducive to the public good". Mr Justice Sedley ruled on Wednesday that Michael Howard acted unlawfully because he had not given Mr Moon the chance of making representations.

David Coombs, solicitor for Mr Moon, said in a letter to Mr Howard: "It will not now be practicable for us to make representations... and have them properly considered by you in time."

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Double X-ray detects more breast tumours

Routine screening for breast cancer could detect 25 per cent more tumours if two X-rays were taken rather than the usual one, doctors have found. More than a million women are screened for breast cancer each year and researchers estimate that more than 1,000 extra lives will be saved by taking two X-rays.

The NHS breast screening programme announced earlier this year that all screening centres would give women a second X-ray, after evidence of its benefits became known. The benefits have been confirmed by a study of more than 40,000 women at nine breast-screening centres, led by Professor Nicholas Wald of St Bartholomew's Hospital, London. The study, under the auspices of the UK Co-ordinating Committee on Cancer Research, is published in the *British Medical Journal*.

Nursery vouchers cost

A pilot scheme for nursery vouchers will cost £5 million to administer, enough to pay for the new places in the four chosen areas, it was disclosed yesterday. Robin Squire, the Schools Minister, said yesterday that he hoped the scheme would provide nursery places for 4,500 children in the London boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea, Wandsworth and Westminster, and Norfolk County Council.

£90,000 yacht damages

A businessman who bought a yacht with rotting foredecks after a faulty surveyor's report won £90,000 compensation at the High Court in London. Michael Offord, from Epsom, Surrey, claimed he paid too much for the £150,000 *Lady Anne* on the basis of a survey by Brian Goodfellow and Associates of Chertsey, Surrey. He hoped to sail the Mediterranean on his retirement.

Bugging controls likely

Police "dirty tricks" operations to plant bugs and secret cameras on suspects could be brought under legal control within a year, according to senior officers. Chief constables hope that legislation will be included in the Queen's Speech on Wednesday. Earlier this week Scotland Yard confirmed that it has a team involved in bugging the homes and businesses of some criminals.

Mother charged

A woman has been charged with the murder of her two sons aged eight and two. Tracey Rutherford, 25, from Ipswich, was charged with the murder of Benjamin and Samuel Slowley, whose bodies were discovered at their home on Wednesday morning. She will appear before Ipswich magistrates this morning. Yesterday, children who had played with the boys laid flowers outside their home.

Former rugby star dies

Alun Pask, the former Wales and British Lions rugby player, has died in a fire at his home. He was overcome by smoke when he attempted to use a garden hose to douse the flames at his bungalow in Blackwood, Gwent. His wife Marilyn escaped unhurt. The 58-year-old former No 8 captained Wales six times and won 26 caps during the Sixties.

Antarctic race delayed

The British explorer preparing for a race to become the first person to walk solo across Antarctica has had his hopes of a head start wrecked by bad weather. Roger Mear had wanted to start his 100-day trek at 11.30 GMT yesterday, several days ahead of his rival, Norwegian Borge Oustland, but thick fog made it impossible for his plane to land at the planned starting point at Berkner Island.

Lawrence robes sold

A set of silk desert robes owned by Lawrence of Arabia sold yesterday for £13,225 at auction at Sotheby's, London. The robes, dating from about 1916, were one of two sets given to T. E. Lawrence's Army friend Arthur Russell almost 70 years ago with the suggestion that he pass them to his mother to turn them into a dress. One set was cut up but the other was saved, albeit minus one arm.

Dame Vera Dover plea

Dame Vera Lynn yesterday joined the campaign to prevent the port of Dover being sold to Calais. Dame Vera, who signed a petition along with the MP Glenda Jackson, said: "During the war the white cliffs were a symbol of hope, home, love and everything we were fighting for."

Police hunt for town clerk

Continued from page 1

Russian. The police were called in by council officials when he failed to return to work. They had received a telephone call from National Westminster Bank.

Eileen Kershaw, the council leader, said last night: "The call was a bombshell. The bank told us we had gone into the red. We were supposed to have thousands."

Mrs Kershaw, whose son Andy is a radio and television presenter, added: "Mr Taylor was always trying to create an aura of mystery and espionage. We are running checks to see whether he was ever in the navy."

"He has a lot of explaining to do. I don't think he came to terms with Labour winning the election. Or having me, a woman, God forbid, as lead-

er. I had to have two separate meetings with him about his overbearing attitude."

The council entrusted all its finances to Mr Taylor, who boasted he was one of the first ships to sail for the Falkland Islands in 1982. Cheques amounting to £96,000 have not been paid into the bank. Rosendale borough council is owed £86,000. The 7,000 residents of Whitworth face a supplementary rate as the council is insured for only £50,000.

As part of his £19,500-a-year duties, Mr Taylor collected the daily proceeds from the swimming pool and civic centre bar. They amounted to £1,000 a week. An audit showed very little has been paid into the bank since May.

Mr Taylor, who was hired five years ago, supplied his

own service commendations for bravery as references for the job. He told the council he worked in computer security when he left the navy aged 35.

Christine Adamson, the mayor of Whitworth, said: "Wages for staff are the immediate problem. Some manual workers were due to be paid at the end of the week. Monthly staff are not due for payment yet."

"We will have to pay them from income from the swimming baths and the takings from the bar at the Civic Hall. We will ask Rosendale Council for help. But that looks doubtful. We do owe them £36,000."

Tom Aldred, the former town clerk, said: "He often talked about his special missions. I now just have this terrible nagging feeling."

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Portillo's advisers clash over value of American fighter

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL PORTILLO is under pressure to reject a proposal to lease American F16s to replace ageing Tornado aircraft after senior Ministry of Defence officials said it would cost about £1 billion over ten years.

The Defence Secretary is examining two options to provide the RAF with an effective air defence aircraft until the four-nation Eurofighter combat aircraft, which will also have an air defence capability, comes into service in squadron form in 2005. The existing Tornado F3 air defence aircraft needs an extensive upgrade if it is to continue in service, at a cost of between £115 million and £120 million. Mr Portillo has been urged by his special advisers outside the MoD to lease F16s instead. However, figures produced by senior officials at the MoD indicate that leasing F16s would be more expensive, even though the American aircraft is acknowledged to be highly capable and versatile — far better in aerial combat than the present Tornado.

Officials have said that it would be necessary to develop a new infra-structure for the F16, including different refuelling tankers, spare parts, ground staff, training facilities and simulation equipment.



The F16: cheap to run



The F3: cheaper at first

According to defence sources, the bill for leasing F16s for ten years and developing the necessary support services would cost at least £1 billion. It has also become clear that the version on offer for leasing, F16ABs, would not meet the RAF's requirements, which include air-to-air refuelling capability.

The defence sources said this would mean leasing the more capable F16CDs. If none was available, the Americans would have to upgrade a number of F16ABs.

Although upgrading Tornado F3s would be cheaper initially, those supporting the F16 option have pointed out that the American aircraft is much cheaper to run than the Tornado. It is also being suggested that if F16s were leased, they could be kept on for longer than ten years, not as a rival to Eurofighter, but as an extra asset. As one

defence source said: "In a conflict such as Bosnia, it would be far better to send F16s to do the air defence role rather than send the RAF's most expensive aircraft [the Eurofighter, each costing £57 million at 1994 prices], with a risk of it being shot down by a stray missile."

However, other advisers to Mr Portillo are understood to have given warning that the ministry cannot afford to spend £1 billion on leasing American aircraft.

If Mr Portillo takes the advice of the majority of his senior officials, British Aerospace will be asked to update the Tornado F3 by fitting it with two new air-to-air missile systems, Asraam and Amraam — advanced missiles with short-range and medium-range capability.

British Aerospace sources said it might be necessary also to improve the radar, but there would be no need to carry out any other modifications. One source said: "The important thing will be the fitting of new missiles which will make the Tornado six times more capable than the existing aircraft."

The Asraam system, which is being developed by British Aerospace with the American Hughes Aircraft Company, will be available in 1998. The missile is expected to have 20 per cent more thrust than the Sidewinder system.

Cabinet cost-cutters allow Services time to regroup

By MICHAEL EVANS

THE defence budget appears to have emerged relatively unscathed from the Cabinet's latest public spending allocations, after government pledges to give the Armed Forces a period of stability.

However, there are still economies, redundancies and depot closures to come in the final phase of the Frontline First cuts in support services, announced last year. Michael Portillo has also promised to maintain the momentum for cuts through efficiency mea-

sures that could lead to further reductions. The Frontline First programme, the name given to the Ministry of Defence's Defence Costs Study, was carried out after the Treasury demanded cuts of £750 million in the Budget.

Mr Portillo, who was Chief Secretary to the Treasury when Frontline First was inaugurated, said: "The view I took at the Treasury was that if we could persuade the MoD — as we did — to conduct an in-depth study of its costs, that would result in two things: more ability to buy kit that the

Forces wanted and a period of stability. That remains my view."

The Defence Secretary promised the Armed Forces that there would be "no Frontline First 2". He said: "There's no prospect of any further review of that sort."

Mr Portillo praised the MoD for "applying itself so thoroughly to eliminating waste and reviewing its practices".

But he added: "I will not in any way release the pressure on the MoD to maintain the search for efficiencies."



The Duchess of Kent, patron of the Samaritans and a former volunteer, inaugurates the charity's national line yesterday. It can be phoned for the price of a local call

Helpline offers instant aid to the depressed

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

PEOPLE calling the Samaritans should no longer have to wait for help after the charity opened a telephone line yesterday for use throughout the country at the cost of a local call.

Many people have in the past tried to contact Samaritan volunteers at one of 200 branches for help — only to get the engaged tone. From now on they will be able to ring 0345-909090, and the new system will allow calls to be diverted from the busiest branches to any of the other offices. Calls to the Samaritans have increased by 29 per cent in the past ten years.

The initiative was announced by the Duchess of Kent, a former Samaritan and now patron of the charity, and the Rev Chad Varah, who founded it in a central London church with one telephone 42 years ago.

The Duchess said: "This way I hope desperate people can pick up the phone and speak to someone immediately. In the past, getting the engaged tone meant that some callers did not call back." She hoped that eventually calls to the line would be free. "I consider this another emergency service. I hope the number will become as familiar as 999."

Conditions experienced by a baby in the womb and in infancy may influence mood throughout life, doctors say. Researchers led by Professor David Barker, of the University of Southampton, studied the weights at birth and at one year of 15,000 children born 60 to 80 years ago in Hertfordshire: 43 people committed suicide at an average age of 51. They had similar birth weights to the rest of the group but were about a pound lighter after 12 months.

The study, in the *British Medical Journal*, cites evidence that hormonal disturbances underlie depression. "Patterns of hormone release by the hypothalamus [a gland] are known to be programmed in utero."

Finger of fate traps a mugger

A woman made sure that police would be able to trace the mugger who put his hand over her mouth to silence her in a park. She bit off the end of one of his fingers. Leon Gunning, 21, of Cheetham, Manchester, was found seeking treatment in hospital. Yesterday he was jailed for three years by Manchester Crown Court for assaulting Jobquair Nahir, also 21, of Oldham, with intent to steal her gold necklace. His fingertip could not be sewn back.

Jewellery raid

Ports and airports were put on alert for two thieves who robbed a shop of antique jewellery worth £500,000. The thieves, with foreign accents, bound and gagged staff at the shop in Bond Street, London, and pistol-whipped one man.

Yates hearing

A bankruptcy petition against Paula Yates, estranged wife of the rock singer Bob Geldof, was dismissed. Miss Yates, 36, did not attend the hearing at the High Court's Bankruptcy Division. The petition was filed by the Inland Revenue.

Airmen killed

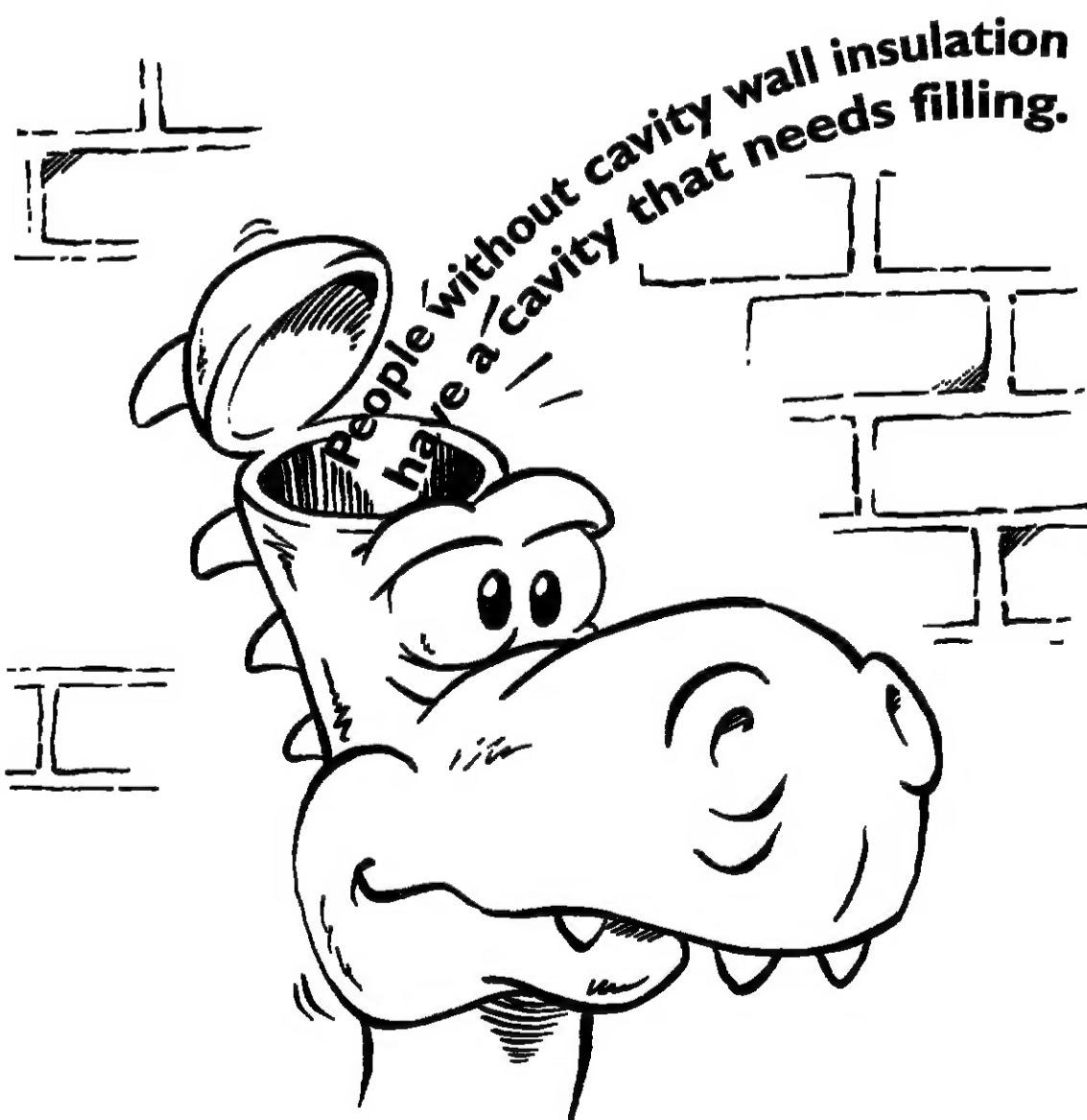
Two RAF men were killed in a road crash in Bahrain. Howard Pritchard, 24, from RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, and Colin McDonald, 32, from RAF Leeming, North Yorkshire, were serving with the UN in Saudi Arabia.

In the frame

A driver who was caught speeding by the same camera five times in two days was fined £360 yesterday. Jane Mann, 38, from Teignmouth, Devon, was allowed to keep her licence despite being given 18 penalty points.

Smooth operator

The last British silk-weaving company using 150-year-old hand looms has won an order for a former imperial palace at St Petersburg. Humphries Weaving of Castle Hedingham, Essex, will supply hangings for state bedrooms.



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Guest star challenges for place in Christmas album charts as chairman of the Bard

Prince presents the greatest hits of Shakespeare

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince of Wales launched his challenge to Sir Cliff Richard and the late Freddie Mercury yesterday for a place in the Christmas record charts.

Playing Prince Hal, his distant predecessor as king-in-waiting, he joins a cast of distinguished actors in reading a selection of his favourite passages from Shakespeare, collected on a set of cassettes and in an accompanying book under the title *The Prince's Choice*.

Shops greeted the publication with enthusiasm. Dillons immediately offered a £3 discount on the book's £12.99 cover price. Hachards of Piccadilly had it on display in both their royal and literature departments.

"We will sell many more from the royal counter. I expect the book and cassettes to be one of this season's terrific stocking-fillers," said Roger Katz, general manager.

The Prince, president of the Royal Shakespeare Company, was in Stratford-upon-Avon yesterday to attend its annual general meeting. He takes his duties seriously, and has campaigned vigorously on the national bard's behalf, particu-

larly to have him read more widely in schools. In his introduction to the book, the Prince quotes Cole Porter's humorous recommendation to "brush up your Shakespeare", but confesses that grinding through *Julius Caesar* at Gordonstoun left him largely unmoved. His own enthusiasm was fired nearly 20 years later when he discovered, and identified with, *Henry V*.

He has seen Kenneth Branagh's film version at least

"Brush up your Shakespeare Start quoting him now. Brush up your Shakespeare And the women you will wow."

— Cole Porter

three times. "I found myself wondering in amazement at Shakespeare's insight into the mind of someone born into this kind of position," the Prince writes. "Some find it a rather jingoistic play, glorifying war. Certainly there are great speeches of resolute action. But each time I have seen or read the play, it has been the humanity of the King that has moved me most." Among

the *Henry V* excerpts are these thoughts on the weight of kingship: "We must bear all. O hard condition, twin-born with greatness: subject to the breath of every fool, whose sense no more can feel but his own wringing. What infinite heartsease must kings neglect that private men enjoy?"

The Prince says that "it is not just about the innermost concerns of kings. It is about the loneliness of high office, the responsibilities and stresses which afflict all those who shoulder great burdens, run industries or schools — or perhaps nurse invalid relatives."

"Shakespeare holds up the mirror to Nature for us to see ourselves and to experience ourselves, so that we gain in the process a more profound understanding of ourselves and others, appreciating right and wrong, and the laws of emotion and nature which make us behave as we do."

He is, he says, "one of those who believe that man's mind is more than a mere mechanical object functioning in a mechanical world."

Royal watchers and amateur psychologists will strain to detect some clues to the Prince's innermost character in his choice. There is Prince Hal preparing for kingship, Macbeth and Brutus grieving in their different ways over the loss of a wife, Iago's treachery towards Othello, and the dark reflections on Time the Destroyer in Sonnet 60.

Among distinguished names on the recording, Sir John Gielgud gives John of Gaunt's "This England", Glenda Jackson returns to her pre-political roots as Cleopatra, Anthony Sher is Macbeth, Dame Maggie Smith Voltemand in *Coriolanus*, Richard Briers Malvolio and Alan Bates Duke Senior.

The choice of passages was a joint effort by the Prince, the acrost Sir Robert Stephens and Eric Anderson, who was the Prince's English master at Gordonstoun.

Glenda Jackson said yesterday: "I think that what is important to remember with something like *The Prince's Choice* is that the Songs From The Shows, as it were, are not the show itself, but at least with the spoken word the listener's imagination is unleashed."

Leading article, page 19



The Prince listening to his Shakespeare selection. Sir Robert Stephens and the Prince's former English master helped to make the choice

Royal performer urged to look back in anger

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince of Wales showed a natural talent for acting but had difficulty expressing enough anger in the role of Hal when he dismissed Falstaff, Glyn Dearman, director of the recording, said yesterday.

The Prince enacted the scene from *Henry IV, Part 1*, at a recording session at his home at Highgrove last month. Sir Robert Stephens played Falstaff and Toby Stephens, his son, was Poins. In the scene the future King Henry V realises that his high office demands he sever his friendship with his long-standing and hedonistic partner in drink and revelry.

Mr Dearman said: "The problem was he came across as such a nice guy. When he berates Falstaff, it was getting him to be angry enough. I said, 'What do you do, sir, when you are angry?' There was a long pause, and he said, 'Right. I have not the faintest



Stephens: role opposite the Prince as Falstaff

idea what was going on in his mind, but he certainly seemed to enjoy it."

The Prince finally managed to inject the hint of a sneer into his demolition of Sir John, having caught him out in a false boast: "These lies are like their father that begets them — gross as a mountain,

open, palpable. Why, thou clay-brained guts, thou knotty-pated fool, thou whoreson obscene greasy tallow-catch."

Mr Dearman added: "I can only guess what Prince Charles gets out of reading or seeing Shakespeare, but I'd suggest he loves the language and shares something of the philosophy. At one point when we were working on the scene I said to the Prince that he was the only person in the world who knew what a line of Prince Hal's actually meant. In a way, Prince Charles is giving a performance every day of his life, and to an extent one had to penetrate all that in order to get him to play Prince Hal."

Those involved in the recordings are braced for criticism that mere highlights are no substitute for a full diet of complete play. Glenda Jackson said yesterday: "I think that what is important to remember with something like *The Prince's Choice* is that the Songs From The

20 Prince's Choice books and CDs to be won

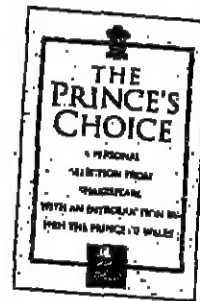
Today, readers of *The Times* have the opportunity to win a copy of *The Prince's Choice* book and CD. Together, each prize is worth £32.98. All you have to do to win is answer this simple question:

In which year was Shakespeare born?

The book, Prince Charles's personal selection from Shakespeare, is published by Hodder & Stoughton, in hardback price £12.99. A number of famous actors and actresses feature on the two CDs giving voice to his choices. The CD set, also published by Hodder, will retail for £19.99. All the royalties from the sale of the book and CDs will go to The Prince of Wales's Charities Trust.

Send your answer on a postcard to: *The Times/Prince's Choice*, 5 Britton's Court, London EC8R 6NG, to arrive no later than Friday, November 10, 1995. The first 20 correct entries chosen at random after the closing date will win a copy of the book and CD. Normal Times Newspaper competition rules apply.

Copies may be ordered from Bookpoint Services: 01295 831700



Shows, as it were, are not the show itself, but at least with the spoken word the listener's imagination is unleashed."

can equivalent of Classic FM. "Having those nuggets might cause people to turn around and take a different look at Shakespeare, whose very name can be an instant turn-off for some."



Inspiration: Kenneth Branagh starring as Henry V. The Prince has seen the film at least three times

Supermarkets thrust bananas into the front line of price war

BANANAS are falling in price as they become the focus of intense cost-cutting by rival supermarkets. A pound of the fruit now costs as little as 15p, having fallen from 45p in the past two weeks (Leyla Linton writes).

A spokeswoman for Safeway said bananas were being used to entice customers as part of the heavy discounting war between the main chains.

"For the last two weeks the price of bananas has kept on going down. Whether it goes down any more depends on our competitors."

Bananas are the second most popular fruit after apples and stores report customers are buying several pounds at a time. "You could say we are virtually giving them away,"

said one supermarket fruit buyer. Announced promotions include: Asda: home-in lamb leg £4.38 kg, McVities Louisiana Lemon Pie £1.59, baking potatoes 89p for 2.5 kg. Budgens: rump steak £7.40 kg, New Covent Garden Fresh Winter Tomato Soup 99p for 568ml, Napoleon black grapes 59p lb, Budgens cheese and mushroom quiche 99p. Co-op: Uncle Ben's medium chilli con carne sauce 89p for 475g, reduced calorie coleslaw 39p for 250g, Co-op mandarin in juice 45p for 411g, hot oats cereal 79p for 500g. Harrods: French camembert salami £2.35 for 100g, Le

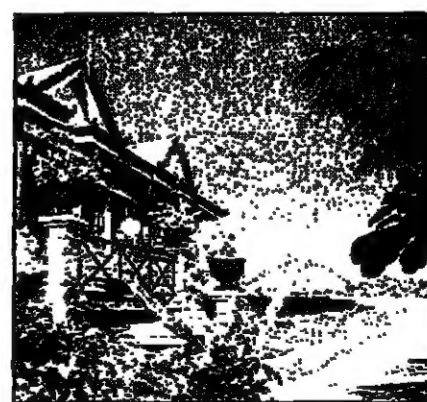
Perche Salami ring £2.15 for 100g, Cantal (Salers) cheese £13.19 kg. Iceland: chicken thin and crispy 12in pizza £1.99, Southern fried croquettes 99p for 907g, Birds Eye fish cuisine italiano bake £1.49 for 400g, McVities Mississippi Mud Pie £2.29. Marks & Spencer: butter baked chicken breast £3.29 for 567g, two whole cod £1.69 for 255g, treacle tart 99p for 300g, Brussels sprouts 69p lb. Morrisons: chicken Kiev twin pack £1.49, fresh vegetable bake 99p for 300g, Maltesers 99p for 146g, crispbread 29p for 250g. Safeway: salmon en croûte

£2.49 for 400g, tortelloni and cheese salad 65p a quarter lb, apple turnovers 23p each, chicken and vegetable pies 94p for 568g. Sainsbury: pork boneless loin £5.55 kg, West Country cheddar £4.37 kg, blackberry and apple crumble £1.25 for 400g, Sultana scones 69p for eight. Sainsbury: red apples 29p lb, mixed salad 74p for 180g, Marina marinated rollmops herring 99p for 240g, sultanas 49p for 500g. Tesco: sirloin steak £9.64 kg, broccoli 49p lb, fruited teacakes 99p for six, Melloway buffet pork pies £1.59 for six. Waitrose: whole Chinook salmon £2.69 lb, Waitrose fruit fools 4x14g £1.39, Belgian chocolates £4.85 for 230g.

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Conservatives band together to head off Powell bandwagon

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

LEADERS of a dozen conservative groups united yesterday in an extraordinary attempt to scare Colin Powell away from seeking the Republican presidential nomination.

As a new *Wall Street Journal* poll gave General Powell a record 15-point lead over President Clinton, and as Mr Clinton engaged in another remarkable public display of hand-wringing over the mistakes of his first two years in office, the conservatives called a joint Washington press conference to declare their absolute determination to prevent the centrist former general hijacking their revolution.

It was time "to let America know how true conservatives feel about Colin Powell," said Cliff Johnson, a spokesman for the American Conservative Union. "They have worked too hard over the past decades to defeat big government and liberal social policies to have the party turn its back on all their work by nominating Colin Powell."

The groups covered the

range of economic and social conservatism, but Ralph Reed, head of the 1.7 million-member Christian Coalition, was conspicuously absent and other conservatives — including former Vice-President Dan Quayle — have spoken warmly of General Powell.

Polls suggest grassroots conservatives are as divided as their leaders over General Powell, who clearly offers the best prospect of a Republican White House, and a signal from Newt Gingrich, the mastermind of the "Republican revolution" and their ultimate mentor, could make all the difference.

Commentators argue that Mr Gingrich and General Powell need each other — Mr Gingrich to give the general credibility with conservatives and General Powell to lend the Speaker's revolution badly needed moral authority.

The loquacious Mr Clinton has meanwhile scored his second own goal in as many weeks. He impulsively telephoned Ben Wattenberg, a

conservative columnist, to praise his new book and ended up disavowing for an hour about the failings of his first two years.

Mr Wattenberg quoted Mr Clinton as saying he had behaved "like a Prime Minister, not a President", and had been too interested in the "legislative scorecard rather than in philosophy". He had "let Democrats down" by abandoning his emphasis on values after the 1992 election, and had "lost the language" of the moderate New Democrat he campaigned as.

Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, said Mr Wattenberg's account distorted the conversation, but it was in line with another recent presidential faux pas. During a speech in Houston Mr Clinton said that he regretted having raised taxes so much in 1993. Congressional Democrats who had risked their careers to support that tax increase were livid and the President had to backtrack swiftly.

Hijacker of Miami school bus shot dead

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MIAMI BEACH

A HIJACKER angry with tax collectors yesterday commandeered a school bus with 11 disabled children and two adults aboard, taking them on a harrowing ride before he was fatally shot by police.

About an hour after the hijacking, the bus stopped and police fired several shots at the hijacker, witnesses said. Officers stormed the vehicle and dragged the man on to the pavement in front of a Miami Beach restaurant. The children, bus driver and an aide escaped serious injury, authorities said. "Fortunately today we were lucky, nobody was harmed," a Dade County schools spokesman said.

Jesse Dunwoody, administrator of the South Pointe Manor nursing home across the street from the restaurant, said he and ten staff watched the drama. "I don't know if he had a weapon. I don't understand why they shot him."

During the hijacking, the bus driver kept in radio contact with authorities and passed on the hijacker's demands, a police spokesman said.



Police drag away a man who hijacked a school bus after they shot him outside a Miami Beach restaurant. The 11 disabled pupils on the bus were unharmed

Lockerbie ceremony boycott

Washington: The dedication today by President Clinton of a Lockerbie disaster memorial cairn, paid for by the people of Scotland, is to be boycotted by some of the victims' relatives (Ian Brodie writes).

They are staying away to express their anger at what they regard as inadequate efforts to bring to justice those responsible for planting the bomb that killed 270 people on a Pan Am airliner seven years ago. Among those refusing to attend is Dr Jim Swire, whose daughter Flora died in the crash.

Politician killed

Bogota: Alvaro Gómez Hurtado, 76, a former presidential candidate and outspoken critic of the Colombian Government, was killed in an attack by two or three gunmen here, local radio said. (Reuters)

OJ romance over

Los Angeles: The model Paula Barbieri remained celibate and waited for O.J. Simpson during his trial for double murder, but has now ended their relationship, she told ABC television. (AP)



Tyson: thumb injury

Tyson camp refuses to show X-rays

BY QUENTIN LETTS

SPECULATION over the nature and extent of the fracture to Mike Tyson's right thumb was fuelled yesterday when his camp refused to release X-rays of the injury.

The heavyweight boxer, due to fight Buster Mathis Jr in Las Vegas tomorrow, cancelled the fight on Wednesday, saying that he had broken the thumb in training. The move has angered broadcasters and associates who had invested in the bout. Tyson's second since his release from prison.

However, the X-rays will be sent to the Nevada State Athletic Commission. Promoters said yesterday that the injury should heal in six weeks, so would not prevent his March fight against Frank Bruno. Flanked by doctors, Tyson appeared at a news conference with the thumb heavily bandaged. "I thought I could sneak through, but the pain became too intense and it continued hurting during sparring sessions," he said.

Boxing, page 42

One guard can run push-button US prison

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A FUTURISTIC prison building, hailed as the first "push-button jail", has been opened in Chicago and will receive its first inmates soon. The prison's high-security convicts will find themselves cast into a world more akin to *Star Trek* than *Porridge*.

The new Cook County jail has been designed to allow a single prison officer. In moments of crisis, to control the entire complement of 1,536 inmates. The guard simply sits in the central control room, a place said to resemble the bridge of a Hollywood space ship. From there, via touch-sensitive television screens, he can open or close any cell door, watch the movements of prisoners and seal whole corridors. Normally, the guard-to-prisoner ratio will be 1 to 200.

Prison officials hope the jail will allow rapid reaction to disturbances and, ultimately, save money, even though the building cost \$95 million (\$60 million). The design is practical as well as futuristic. Its exterior features much glass, which is said to be strong enough to withstand for half an hour the combined battering of dozens of hands. Officials say it can be broken only by explosives.

Inside, there are no door keys, bare bars and forbidding corridors. The walls are painted orange, blue, green and yellow, chosen for their calming effects. Consultants advised against red, which might have agitated inmates.

Colombo on alert for Tigers attack

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN COLOMBO

THE Sri Lankan capital was on high alert last night for attacks by the Tamil Tigers, who are taking heavy punishment in the battle for control of their crumbling empire on the northern Jaffna peninsula.

Intense security has been imposed round sensitive buildings and installations in Colombo: the question is not if, but when, the Tamil Tigers will strike.

The Sri Lankan Army remains five miles from Jaffna town, fearful of moving too quickly to capture it in case it runs into the kind of spectacular booby trap for which the Tigers are renowned.

The military assault has dislodged 50,000 to 100,000 people, who are being encour-

aged by the Tigers to leave for reasons that are not yet clear. There has been speculation that they might be ready to use chemical weapons.

The armed forces are in a dilemma. They have proved themselves beyond most people's expectations by getting as far as they have, but the question arises: what do they do with Jaffna if it does fall? The cost would be enormous in men and resources, since the Tigers are capable of launching guerrilla assaults from bases in the jungle.

Secret hospital: Sri Lankan troops on the outskirts of Jaffna said they had found a three-storey underground hospital where rebels treated their wounded. (Reuters)

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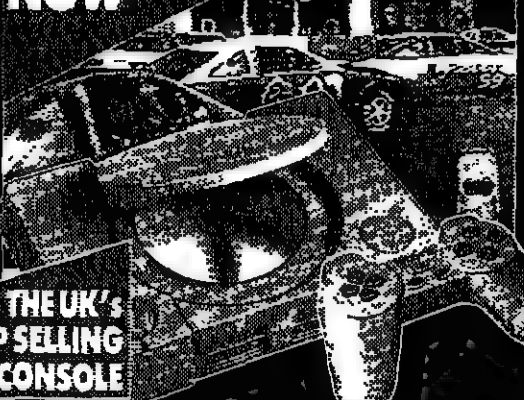
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King & Shaxson cuts jobs

By Robert Miller

JUST months after its £16 million acquisition of Allied Provincial, the retail stockbroker, King & Shaxson has restructured the business with the loss of more than 100 jobs.

As part of the reorganisation, announced yesterday, the Allied Provincial name will disappear and its business will operate under the name of Greig Middleton, the retail stockbroker bought last year by King & Shaxson, the stockbroking and discount house. Talks are also being held with Collins Stewart with a view to the London-based stockbroker buying Greig Middleton's offshore offices in Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man, for what is believed to be "several" million pounds. The streamlined Greig Middleton will be one of the largest retail stockbroking groups in the UK with about £7.5 billion of clients' assets under management.

Treasury panel disagrees on the scope for tax cuts

Wise men split on Budget

By Janet Bush
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Treasury's six-man panel of independent forecasters yesterday failed to agree a common line in its advice to the Chancellor on his Budget strategy, disagreeing widely on whether taxes should be cut.

Professor Patrick Minford, of Liverpool University and Cardiff Business School, said that he would like to see significant

tax cuts of about £6 billion this year and next. He said this would still mean a further substantial fall in public borrowing in years ahead.

Andrew Britton, of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, and Professor Wynne Godley, of Cambridge, said that they would like to see some extra public spending to help to maintain the recovery. Mr Britton argued that higher spending

would be more desirable than tax cuts.

Professor Tim Congdon, of Lombard Street Research, Professor David Currie, of the London Business School, and Gavyn Davies, of Goldman Sachs, argued that public borrowing remain high and that much of the improvement being forecast by the Treasury is dependent on very tight public spending plans. They see little scope for significant

tax cuts unless "financed by genuine and permanent reductions in public spending".

The report also said that they would like to see some loosening of overall macroeconomic policy, which is too tight given the economic deceleration. It said: "Most of us would like any policy relaxation to be taken at least as much in lower interest rates as in tax cuts or higher spending."

A majority of the panel also advised the Chancellor that it would be better for economic efficiency if any tax cuts were targeted at the lower end of the income scale rather than a reduction in the basic rate of tax. Most of the members also said that they opposed any further cuts in public investment in infrastructure and skills to make room for tax cuts.

A separate report published by the London Business School argued that modest tax cuts of £4 billion over the next two years could be justified, allowing 1p off the basic rate of income tax this year and a further 1p in the next.

Pennington, page 27

Kevin Maxwell 'saw transfer paper'

KEVIN MAXWELL yesterday denied that he and his father deliberately put pension funds at risk for their own interests.

Questioned over £100 million worth of shares in the Israeli company Scitex, which the prosecution alleges belong to the pensioners, he insisted he had seen an amended document in which the beneficial ownership of the shares was transferred to the Robert Maxwell Group.

In his 14th day in the witness box, the publisher's

youngest son said he saw the document only briefly at a late-night meeting in his father's office, but accepted what he was told about it.

Alan Suckling, QC, prosecuting, asked: "Why? It stank, didn't it?" Kevin Maxwell said: "I had implicit faith in my father... It was the ordinary course of business for him and I accepted it."

Earlier Kevin told the jury he did not consider the pension fund had been in any way put at risk over the Scitex deal.

Later, when Mr Suckling said: "The truth is you and your father decided to use the Scitex shares for the benefit of RMG, completely ignoring the interests of the pensioners", Kevin answered: "That is the substance of your allegation and I reject it absolutely."

Kevin Maxwell, 36, his brother Ian, 39, and former Maxwell financial adviser Larry Trachtenberg, 42, deny conspiracy to defraud the pension fund by misusing shares. The case continues.

First Leisure in step for high profits

By Christine Buckley

CROWDED dancefloors look likely to make for upbeat figures from First Leisure, the disco and tenpin bowling group. The group, which will report final results fully in January, said yesterday that sales in its dance venues were up 14 per cent in the year to October 31.

This was in spite of the disposal of five discos in March, although this was offset by a 5 per cent rise in admission prices and increased spending at bars.

Bowling also showed an improved performance and helped to lift the sports division's sales 7 per cent on a like-for-like basis.

First Leisure's bingo operations seem to have defied the National Lottery. Admissions and sales were running ahead of expectations in the large capacity clubs opened during the year. But the group said the benefits would not appear immediately.

Success in these activities will help to offset the impact of a slip in sales at the group's resorts.



John Conlan, chief executive, left, with director Graham Coles

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

World insurance network formed

SIX of the world's largest insurance brokers have formed a private company to run the first global electronic network for the industry worldwide. The World Insurance Network (WIN) will be based in London and will enable documents, information, invoices and electronic mail to be exchanged via computers across the world. The company, owned equally by Alexander & Alexander, Aon, Johnson & Higgins, Marsh & McLennan, Sedgwick, and Willis Corroon, expects to offer a full service from next spring. Subscription is open to all insurance brokers and insurance companies.

British Telecom and MCI, the American telecoms company in which BT has a 20 per cent stake, will provide the technology through their joint-venture company, Concert. The deal is thought to be worth more than £10 million in the first year, and BT is believed to have beaten tenders from AT&T and IBM to run WIN.

Readicut's '£1.6m hole'

READICUT International, the specialist textiles group, has discovered a £1.6 million hole in the accounts of one of its carpet businesses. Readicut said that assets at Firch Carpets had been overstated by that amount over the past two financial years. There would be no exceptional charges of £1.2 million this year to cover the problem and appropriate changes in management had been made, said the Brighouse, West Yorkshire, group. It said it was satisfied the trading performance this year would be unaffected.

Bellway advances

BELLWAY, the housebuilder based in Newcastle, lifted pre-tax profits to £34 million from £28 million in the year to July 31. Turnover increased 33 per cent to £267 million. However, a change in government funding caused a reduction in Housing Association sector sales, slowing down turnover towards the year-end with reservations at August 1, 1995, being lower than those in 1994. Earnings per share increased 23 per cent to 21.4p. The final dividend is up 0.45p to 5.25p, making a total of 7.7p (7p).

Banks lag on EU law

ALMOST a third of UK banks will not be ready to comply with new European Union legislation on January 1 on their capital adequacy, after running into computer and staffing problems. A survey by Touche Ross, accountants, found 30 per cent of banks are behind with the integration of CAD reporting systems with existing accounting and risk management systems. Delays by their external software suppliers have added to the problems, as has the shortage of systems personnel.

Gaming reform urged

A FRESH call for faster reformation of gaming regulations was made yesterday by John Garrett, a director of the Rank Organisation, which runs nearly 200 bingo clubs and amusement centres and 30 casinos. Addressing the annual conference of Business in Sport and Leisure, he condemned the Gaming Act for being outdated and too stringent. He added that casinos and bingo operators were largely disadvantaged compared with the National lottery because of the advertising restrictions placed on them.

Taxman trims returns

THE Inland Revenue has been forced to simplify its new-style tax returns and cut the number of schedules for different categories of taxpayer after the returns proved too complex. New returns are being tested for the April 1997 switch to self-assessment. Nine million people will receive new-style returns, consisting of a return plus separate schedules that the Revenue thinks relevant. Schedules have been cut from a possible 15 to a maximum eight. Basic matters, such as bank interest, will go in the main return instead of a schedule.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.19	2.03
Austria Sch	16.78	16.26
Belgium Fr	48.01	46.71
Canada \$	2.241	2.061
Cyprus Cyp	0.751	0.696
Denmark Kr	8.29	8.49
Finland Mk	7.31	6.86
France Fr	6.15	7.50
Germany Dm	2.38	2.18
Greece Dr	384.00	359.00
Hong Kong \$	12.54	11.84
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel Shk	5.1500	4.5000
Italy Lit	2615.00	2480.00
Japan Yen	177.50	161.20
Malta	0.586	0.541
Netherlands Gld	2.651	2.431
New Zealand \$	2.55	2.33
Norway Kr	10.46	9.86
Portugal Esc	247.00	228.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.42
Spain Pta	200.50	187.50
Sweden Kr	11.07	10.27
Switzerland Fr	1.34	1.78
Turkey Lira	ref.	7750.0
USA \$	1.575	1.545

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

G&N rises in first half

GERRARD & National, the derivatives broker and discount house, reported an 8.66 per cent increase in pre-tax profits in the half year to September 30 in challenging market conditions (Patricia Tehan writes).

The firm said operating income increased in all main subsidiaries, although its financial futures and options business made less profit than in the same period last year on reduced turnover. The interim dividend has been held at 8p, due on December 15.

G&N's policy of bringing together businesses that will benefit from integration is well under way.

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صكرا من الامل

**Ross Tieman on
the island state's
formidable plan
to export
its own success**

Another key investor is Royal Dutch/Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, which is working with Keppel to build a \$40 million liquefied petroleum gas facility.

The pilot model for Suzhou was Batam, the Indonesian island visible from Singapore where 40 foreign companies have now been attracted to a 500-hectare, Singaporean-run, industrial estate. But the motives are very different.

The development of Batam was

Singapore — a success story to be exported as Singapore II. Singapore expertise is also going to Vietnam and Burma

Suzhou is part of a government plan to create an external economy

Singapore money is also leading the drive into the region's new frontier economies of Vietnam and Burma. Both countries benefit from high levels of literacy and sophisticated social organisation. Like China, both have supposedly communist governments.

Singapore's leaders, and its citizens, have to figure out how to adapt to living in a maturing economy surrounded by newly industrialising nations. Singapore II may leave the way open for sequels, but many questions over the plot remain unanswered.

A picture emerges of women choosing an airline primarily for convenience of scheduling, rather than

says. After all, no one wants to spend all their time in their hotel room. It would be nice to have someone on the staff to greet you and to whom you could turn if you had any problems."

feel that it is only right in the circumstances that it should make adequate provision and pay compensation to the victims of those failures.

T&N shareholders may question the level of responsibility of a management who spent such vast sums of money defending the Armley action in a manner criticised by Justice Holland as "lamentable" and as "reflecting a willingness to contest these claims by whatever means possible, legitimate or otherwise, so as to wear the victim down by attrition". Is this "brave" use of company funds? Some may think not.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW SPINK

From John L. T. Smith
Sir, Your Business News col-
umnist, Pennington (October
26) suggests that Ms Clara
Spottswoode, Director-Gen-
eral of Gas Supply, may have
exceeded her duties, as laid
down in the 1986 Gas Act, and
that her comments have re-
sulted in a drop in gas share
prices.

As a shareholder, I find
these allegations very serious
and am wondering whether
there is any action one can
take (should there be an
inquiry into her remarks)?
Obviously, in this instance Ms
Spottswoode appears to have
gone well over the top?

I appreciate that her major

British Gas does go to the wall, which is even being suggested, several million customers will be without gas. What action will Mr Spottiswoode take then? Equally serious, the big City institutions, large pension funds and the private investment will be dealt a serious blow.

I find this absurd talk quite mind boggling from someone who should know better. The Minister, Mr Tim Egan, should also remember there is an election round the corner.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN L. T. SMITH,
Bredon View,
Laverton,
Nr Broadway.

From John Neiger
Sir, I refer to the "landmark victory" in the Merrett case where the defendants were found guilty of negligence... withholding information etc (November 1).
Would someone kindly explain why Lloyd's is still aggressively seeking payment from names who have made losses in these circumstances when the on-going underwriters and agents who have a vested interest in the new Lloyd's are being awarded a two-year windfall profit.
Yours faithfully
JOHN NEIGER,
85 Ashton Lane.


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PHARMACEUTICALS

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SPIRITS, WINES & CIGARS

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499	500	Borne (H)	499		9	16.5
137	99	Sun Street	111		40	16.5
4214	333	Grand Mt	43		41	20.5
307	307	Hopland Dam	347		19	15.4
217	173	Macdonald-Glen	204		19	15.4
710	63	Macdonald-Glen	640		19	15.4
217	173	Macdonald-Glen	641		19	15.4
129	51	Macdonald-Glen	134		19	15.4
240	129	Macdonald-Glen	239		19	15.4

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Source: Fintel

Companies 'hide fraud losses' from shareholders

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CITY institutions are concealing fraud rather than reveal embarrassing losses to shareholders or competitors, according to the head of the City of London police and a senior fraud expert yesterday.

Speaking at the launch of a new police drive to educate companies to take crime prevention seriously, Bill Taylor, the City police commissioner, said companies are also still not taking the simplest of measures to protect themselves. In many cases the fraudsters continued to use tried and tested methods. Banks remain the centre of attack.

Launching the leaflet *Fraudstop*, Mr Taylor said fraud cases in England and Wales last year handled by the Serious Fraud Office and the Crown Prosecution Service involved £10 billion. Large-scale fraud has risen over the past eight years. In 1994-95 the City force's own fraud squad dealt

with cases involving nearly £200 million. Cases such as the Maxwell prosecution, Barings and BCCI were not included in the figures.

Mr Taylor said there was no way of quantifying how many companies were keeping their losses secret. More were coming forward, but he recognised companies might be unhappy to admit they had been duped. He said they should talk to the police, who could help the losers, information would stop others becoming victims and new methods would be identified.

A company might only be hit once "but it could be a big bite and be painful", he said. Time and again the fraud is a known method which could have been foiled by simple prevention. "People have systems in place and they fall into disuse," he said. Weaknesses appeared over the selection of employees or authorities for paying cash.

Peter Benson, chairman of Coopers & Lybrand's forensic accounting division, which is sponsoring a new leaflet on crime prevention, said clients often felt they had compelling reasons for silence. He said: "I suggest the immediate reaction of banks is to sweep it under the carpet and not tell anyone. They would rather everything was carried out behind closed doors." Companies would try to strike a deal with a crooked employee under which he was not prosecuted but sacked after revealing what he had done.

The leaflet warns companies are particularly at risk late on a working day before a public holiday or at other times when the institution is under great pressure. Potential employees should be subjected to tougher screening and offices should be checked to make sure key information is not left on computer screens or in waste bins.



Ed Kirk, left, chairman of Frederick Cooper, and John Staite, finance director, with a range of company products yesterday

Cooper buys US kitchen tool firm

By MARTIN BARROW

FREDERICK COOPER, the coatings, architectural hardware and electrical products group, is expanding in America with the \$5.97 million acquisition of Bonny Products Inc, a manufacturer of

non-electrical kitchen tools and utensils.

Bonny, located in Washington, North Carolina, sells products through mass merchandisers and supermarket chains in America. It also has international distributors in 40 countries. The business

earned profits of \$1.18 million in 1994 on turnover of \$12.9 million. At the year-end, net assets were \$4.9 million.

Frederick Cooper yesterday announced a decline in group pre-tax profits, to £4 million, for the year to July 31, from £6.3 million in the previous 12

months, reflecting the cost of closures. Earnings per share fell to 3p, from 8.2p. However, the total dividend is lifted to 2.7p, from 2.5p, with a 1.9p final due on February 1. The shares rose 5p, to 59p.

Capital expenditure rose to £2.7 million, from £1.6 million.

Tokyo trade halt for Merrill

FROM REUTERS
IN TOKYO

JAPAN has ordered the Tokyo branch of Merrill Lynch, the US brokerage, to suspend trading of stocks on its own account for two days as punishment for violating trade rules. Kyosuke Shinozawa, the Vice-Finance Minister, said the suspension would start from next Tuesday.

The punishment had been expected after Japan's securities watchdog found that Merrill's Tokyo branch had made improper securities trades over nearly six years and recommended that the finance ministry take punitive steps.

The improper transactions involved trading of baskets of stocks which are usually part of an arbitrage using futures and options. If Merrill Lynch was underwriting a new issue for the issue of one of the stocks in the basket, it would be subject to restrictions on trading in the stock.

Merrill Lynch said in New York last week that its actions complied with Tokyo Stock Exchange rules and practices followed by the industry internationally, although they may have been inconsistent with finance ministry policies.

Celsis goes deeper into red

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

A PUSH into North America and other expansion reined back the benefits of a five-fold increase in sales for Celsis, the biotechnology group that specialises in bug detection.

It incurred a loss of £2.9 million for the six months to September 30. The figure, which came after sales and administration costs jumped 70 per cent, largely on the back of the establishment of overseas sales offices, took the group deeper into the red than at the same stage last year, when it incurred a loss of £2.2 million.

Its overseas expansion came with the creation of sales forces in Chicago and Princeton and also in Munich.

Research and development costs for the company, which has global partnership deals with several large healthcare groups, rose 34 per cent to £1.46 million, although part of that was offset by a grant backed by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The group was upbeat about future prospects, especially a recently launched hygiene monitoring system for industrial use that has been developed in a venture with Lever Industrial, part of Unilever. Systemsure, the product of the association, is being projected as the smallest and most intelligent hygiene monitor.

The DTI-supported grant, worth £4 million over three years, will further strengthen the company's industrial expansion. The initiative is structured for a programme of nine research projects, which will be aimed at quality assurance testing for a range of industries.

No interim dividend was declared.

Azlan pulls ahead in first half

By PHILIP PANGALOS

AZLAN GROUP, the fast growing computer products and services distributor, accompanied a surge in first-half profits with a £20.4 million cash call and plans to expand further in Europe through a Dutch acquisition.

After acquisitions in Italy, Germany, Denmark and France, Azlan has acquired Ronin, a network computing distributor based in Rotterdam in The Netherlands, for a maximum of £6.95 million in cash and shares. Azlan will pay an initial £1.95 million, with the balance of up to £5 million depending on Ronin's future profits. Ronin made a pre-tax profit of 500,000 guilders (£200,000) in 1994, on turnover of 41 million guilders.

The purchase will be part-funded from the proceeds of a £20.4 million open offer, fully underwritten by SBC Warburg, of 4.86 million shares, on a two-for-nine basis, at 440p a share. The balance of the proceeds will leave Azlan unencumbered.

Azlan's shares have put on a sparkling performance in the past seven months, nearly quadrupling since the company signed distribution deals with IBM and Netscape. Yesterday, they advanced a further 22p to 480p, compared with a price of 220p when the company floated two years ago.

Strong growth in Europe helped pre-tax profits to jump 312 per cent to £4.45 million in the six months to September 30, on turnover ahead 93 per cent to £72.7 million.

The interim dividend is raised to 1.2p (tp), payable on January 31. Earnings were up 268 per cent to 13.6p (3.7p) a share.

Temps, page 28

Bardon cuts debt with £72m sale

By ROBERT BOYD

BARDON, the international quarrying and aggregates group, is to sell Civil and Marine, the group's dredging company, for £72.3 million to ARC Marine, a subsidiary of Hanson. The disposal will reduce Bardon's gearing from 67 per cent to 45 per cent, below its 50 per cent target.

Civil and Marine was the subject of a £60 million writedown in 1993 but has performed well recently. The company made an operating profit of £5.5 million for the year ended December 31, 1994, and its net assets at that date were £65.9 million.

With the UK road market set to fall 15 to 25 per cent in 1996, the City recently ex-

pressed concern over Bardon's trading outlook. Borrowing, which stood at £246 million for the six months to the end of June, has been its main problem.

Bardon thinks Civil and Marine has less development potential relative to other core operations. The proceeds will be used to cut borrowings. Peter Tom, chief executive, said: "With a more robust balance sheet, we will have much greater flexibility in developing our four main-stream businesses."

However, the group said it is facing difficult trading conditions, much being dependent on whether the Government decides to maintain reasonable levels of investment in infrastructure and to encourage the flagging housing market.

David Snowden, chairman of ARC, said: "This move increases our presence in Europe and gives us a firm footing in the important Thames market. C&M has a major presence in the London area, where we expect further growth."

The Civil and Marine fleet of one bulk carrier and four dredgers will run alongside ARC's 14 ships, consolidating ARC's position as Europe's leading producer of sea-dredged sand and gravel.



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SALES LEDGER FINANCE

An end to cashflow crises

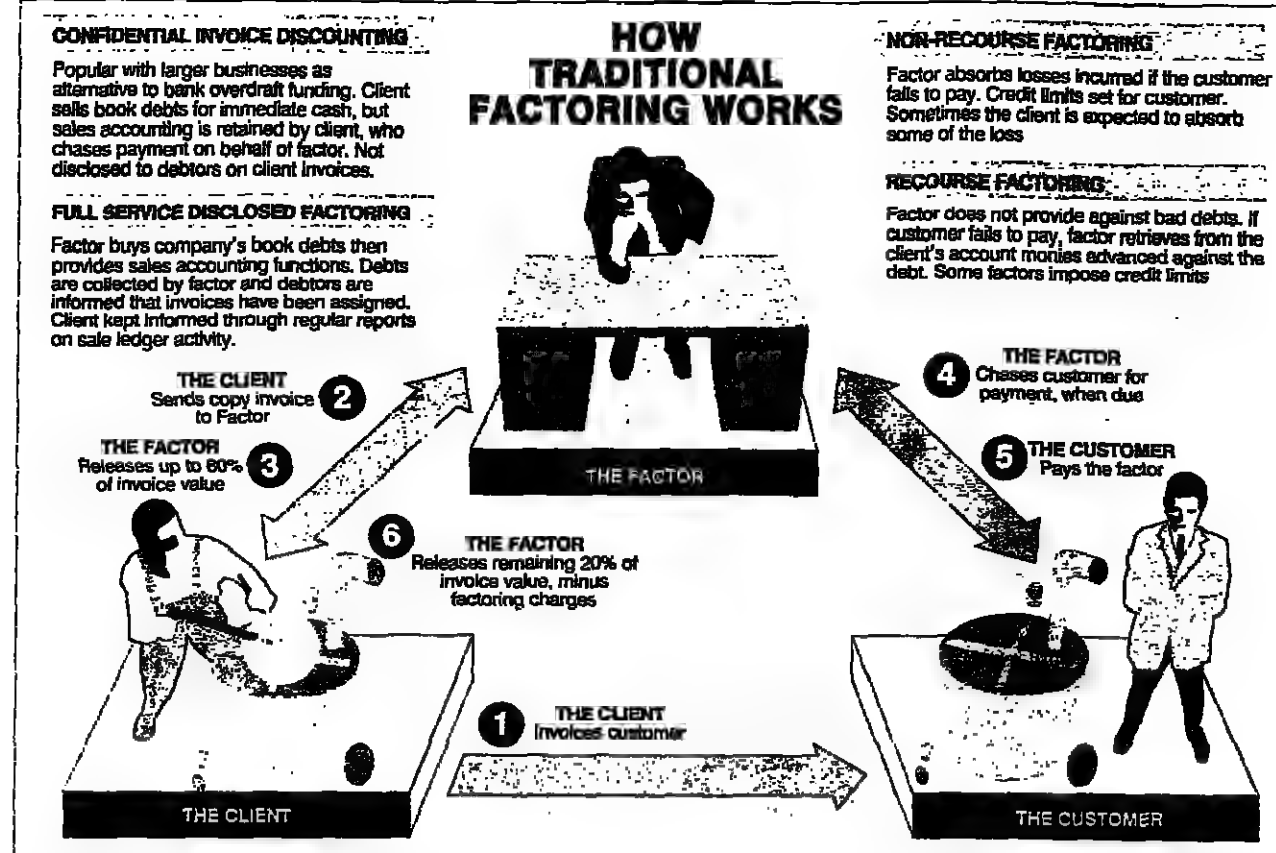
Michael Bickers
introduces a
report on the
billion-pound
trade finance
industry

For an industry that can trace its roots back four centuries, factoring is enjoying unprecedented growth. It already provides finance to more than 14,000 British businesses, yet there are few signs to suggest that it has reached or is near to maturity.

Put simply, factoring offers a business the opportunity to sell its trade debts at a discount, and thus to combat cashflow problems induced by late payments. In 1984, total factoring volume for the year was £4.4 billion. Since then, the industry has progressed at an average rate of more than 20 per cent per annum. In 1994 trading was particularly good — the 46 UK factoring companies achieved a total factored volume of £26.9 billion, an increase of £5.1 billion over 1993. In addition, more factors reported significantly improved profits and profit margins over 1993. In fact all top four factoring companies (by factored volume) reported their highest ever profit figure.

The idea goes back to the 16th century, when European merchants selling textiles abroad used agents known as "factors" to oversee delivery of goods and collection of payments. The service spread to America, where it became common practice for the agents to pay merchants before collecting from customers. In 1890, when an American ban on imports was imposed, some agents decided to offer this service to local businesses. And so factoring as we know it today had arrived.

The first factoring company to form in Britain was International Factors in 1960 (now owned by Lloyds Bank Plc). By 1972 all the major clearing banks were involved and today their factoring subsidiaries are the predominant



players in the market. At first, the industry suffered from an image problem and was seen as a provider of "last resort" finance. This has changed and it is now recognised as an important form of finance for businesses.

Factors offer a number of different services but the two main arrangements are known as "invoice discounting" and "full factoring" (see illustration, above). Clients are typically small manufacturing, distribution and service companies ranging in size from £50,000 to £15 million annual turnover, with more than half under £1 million — although the average size is rising.

Until a few years ago, factoring was unknown to many businesses and financial advisers. Now, most factors report fierce competition, causing considerable pressure on pricing. Although still considered by some businesses to be expensive, factoring is often the only source of finance available to companies

with weak balance sheets or up-to-capacity overdrafts.

Undoubtedly the major benefit for most firms is the provision of finance. The sales ledger management services are certainly useful to many businesses but are often thought to be expensive, to cause a loss of ledger control and reduce interaction with customers. The increasingly popular invoice discounting service is cheaper and to a large extent overcomes these drawbacks because the client continues to collect the debts, but on behalf of the factor. Invoice discounting now represents 62 per cent (£16.8 billion) of total factored volume.

The British economy's gradual move out of recession and the growing demand for an alternative to the bank overdraft is likely to continue to enhance the appeal of factoring. The Association of British Factors & Discounters (ABFD), which represents more than 90 per cent of the UK factoring industry, has reported a 27 per cent increase in the turnover of its members

over the past year. (Some independent companies are represented by the Association of Invoice Factors.)

With businesses increasingly looking at foreign markets, an area of particular potential for factoring is in international business. Although still small compared to domestic services, international factoring accounted for £0.74 billion during the first nine months of 1995, up from £0.55 billion in 1994.

The future for factoring, at least in the short term, looks positive. According to the lat-



Ben Allen: great growth

est NatWest Small Business Research Trust Quarterly Survey, cashflow is an increasingly important problem for small businesses, with more than 10 per cent reporting it as their greatest concern. However, fewer than 1 per cent of VAT-registered businesses use the services of a factor. The potential market for factoring is perhaps several times its current size.

Michael Bickers is author of *Factoring in the UK — A Report and Guide to the Factoring Industry* (Third edition) published by HMSO, £285.

Should late payers be punished by law?

Nick Wilson
on the move to
charge interest
on overdue
payments

The Forum for Private Businesses has been among the most vociferous advocates of government intervention to alleviate the effects of late payment on small firms. It favours legislation to introduce the statutory right to interest — without recourse to the courts — on all late payments.

This, it is suggested, would bind all firms into paying promptly, create a level playing field in payment behaviour and ease cash-flow problems. But would it?

Few would deny that late payment has caused an acute problem for many businesses. A survey of 655 manufacturing companies, conducted by the Credit Management Research Group at my own university, Bradford, revealed that in 1994 on average less than 50 per cent of invoices were paid on time. The typical firm quoting 30 days credit is likely to be paid 60 days or later after the delivery of goods.

The survey demonstrated, however, that those same firms citing late payment as a major business problem were likely to pay late themselves — and were experiencing difficulties obtaining bank credit, and trade credit from their own suppliers.

Many businesses, perhaps over-reliant on short-term funding, find themselves in this hole between the banks, their creditors and debtors. But there is nothing in current law to stop them incorporating a provision for interest into their terms of trade. In fact, they don't: they

value their trading relationships.

Some place the late payment problem firmly on the sufferers' own doorstep. In the survey 30 per cent of firms did not agree credit terms in writing. Also, firms often delay payment by disputing delivery dates, product quality and inaccurate invoicing — ploys that no law will change.

Trade credit is often used as a competitive tool or as a means of building trading relationships. Both suppliers and customers value flexibility. If small firms are always forced to pay up quickly, many will go bankrupt.

Both the pro and anti-interest lobbies cite evidence from other European countries where similar legislation exists in favour of their cases. Interestingly, whereas 42 per cent of smaller companies in Britain rely on bank overdrafts for finance, the figure is only 17 per cent in Germany, a country noted for prompt payment.

In Britain, more financial and credit management training for smaller businesses would clearly have an impact. This might also raise awareness of benefits of fac-

toring, credit insurance and information technology.

Other suggestions include voluntary codes of practice, or a British Standard for payments; the disclosure of payment policies in company accounts; and the streamlining of legal procedures for the recovery of debt.

County Courts can award a fixed interest of 8 per cent on judgment debts, and the Institute of Credit Management, for instance, has suggested that this be raised to 15 per cent. The Association of British Factors & Discounters argues that steps taken to improve legal procedures for debt recovery would be effective.

Despite widespread support for legislation the Government rejected the idea in the White Paper on Competitiveness but has pledged to review the case. The Labour Party has not ruled out legislation but emphasises measures which will induce a "cultural change" in attitudes to debt: it has mooted an Investment Bank for Small Firms.

The EU has said it will consider "further measures" if the slow payment problem does not improve by 1996. The possibility, however, of statutory interest being imposed quickly by the EU is remote.

The author is Professor of Credit Management at Bradford University. The survey *Trading Relationships, Credit Management and Corporate Performance* is £25 (Tel: 01274 384287; Fax: 01274 546866).

'We feel that we have massive

Britain's cash-hungry businesses are turning in increasing numbers to factoring and the industry will reach record growth levels this year, says Ben Allen, chairman of the Association of British Factors & Discounters (ABFD). "Growth has been very fast," he says. "We are set to enter the mainstream of financial products providing working capital for companies coming out of recession."

He expects the industry to have at least

£3 billion in advances to customers this year. "That is about one-tenth of what the banks have out so I think there is scope to double our current level at least," he says. Mr Allen believes that at present levels of growth, Britain's factoring industry should outstrip the world leaders, America and Italy, in absolute volume terms by the end of the decade.

Mr Allen is confident that the negative image of factoring as the lender of last resort — a stigma it had borne since

its birth in 1960 — is dead and buried. During the recession, bank profits were savaged by bad debts and in recent years banks have become increasingly reluctant to lend on overdraft, while borrowers were also wary of this form of finance which gave their bank manager control over the company.

The ABFD held discussions with the Institute of Directors, the CBI and the Bank of England, and what emerged was a plan to move away from the traditional

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has been hit by a
series of setbacks.
The ABFD's new
structure of Director
Bank of England
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Managing directors Lyn Miles and Michael MacCarthy have both been persuaded of the benefits of factoring

BUSINESSES often turn to factoring because they need the money, and most of them stick with it. Apart from the convenience and the cash flow benefits, clients enjoy the relationship.
Lyn Miles, managing director of Romag Security Laminators, of Blaydon, Tyne and Wear, emphasises the importance of the relationship with Barclays Commercial Services, her company's factor. The cost of insuring debts persuaded the specialist glass manufacturer to review its credit control arrangements. "Factoring came out top in terms of price and convenience," Miss Miles says. "We judged factors by their approach. Some of our suppliers used factoring companies so we had first-hand knowledge."

A partner in the business

Frank le Duc on how a company goes about finding a good factor

final consideration," Miss Miles says, "was that we bank with Barclays."
Michael MacCarthy, managing director of W. MacCarthy and Sons, turned to a factor for financial reasons on the advice of Norman Brooks, a managing consultant. The family company, a maker of cardboard boxes and containers based in Bermondsey, southeast London, found its banking terms worsening

after a change of branch manager.
Mr MacCarthy had been under the impression that he could go to a factor only through a bank. Mr Brooks arranged terms with Metropolitan Factors, of Haywards Heath in West Sussex, one of the leading independent factors.
Mr MacCarthy is impressed with the service. "They don't upset and lose

our customers," he says. The quote from a bank-based factor was more expensive than the one from Metropolitan, which had also helped to fund expansion through the purchase of the customer list of another concern — something the company could not have done on its own.
Jeff Longhurst, of Metropolitan, says independents can be more flexible than bank-based factors, which have a rulebook to assess risk. Mr Brooks says: "On paper, they (Metropolitan) shouldn't have backed us."
Bank-based factors, however, point to their integrated service — a range of financial options all from one source. Whatever the choice, according to Alan Hughes, of Griffin Factors, part of Midland Bank, the client's needs must come first. The product must be right for the client.

support from the Establishment'

overdraft into longer term loans and greater use of factoring and invoice discounting.
"We now feel that we have massive support from the Establishment. I am very bullish about the near future," Mr Allen says.
Paul Hancock, sales and marketing director of International Factors, the industry leader, says: "Factoring has been growing eight times faster than rest of the financial services industry since the recession ended. It enjoys the advantage of not being repayable on demand." He says that what was once known for its novelty value is now a mainstay of finance. "The knowledge level of accountants about this industry has grown

tremendously in the past few years," Mr Allen says that the shake-out in recent years in the banking and accounting industries has made it easier to bring highly qualified people into factoring.
"In addition, we have begun a two-tiered system of training courses," he says. "Up to 150 people take the ABFD certificate course each year. That can be followed by a one-week residential diploma course. We aim to have it registered as a fully recognised course within the next five years."
Mr Allen's term of office was due to end in October but he has agreed to stay for another six months to see the ABFD through a period of planned expansion.

account for about 90 per cent of finance in factoring, but there are another 30 or 40 smaller companies out there which we would like to bring into the organisation," he says.
One problem is the ABFD's fee base, which is uniform for all members and hence tends to exclude smaller players. This needs to be reformed, as well as the ABFD's structure as a council which would be impractical for a bigger organisation.
"We need to introduce a structured fee base and change our constitution to that of a chairman's committee," Mr Allen says.

JULES STEWART

Towards a faster service

Ruth Corb reports on the latest trends in beating bad debts

The 1990s have produced a number of interesting trends in factoring and invoice discounting as companies have struggled to find ways of insulating themselves against bad debt.
The movement from non-recourse to recourse factoring, for example, continues apace. In the first half of this year, recourse factoring in the UK grew by almost 17 per cent to a value of £2.2 billion. Non-recourse factoring increased by 14 per cent to just over £2 billion.

The exception to this trend, according to Ben Allen, chairman of the Association of British Factors & Discounters, is the international market, where the credit standing of customers is less well known, making credit insurance more important.
Malcolm Smith, managing director of Alex Lawrie, says that with recourse factoring "the administration fee is lower and the client has more finance available against less well-rated customers. Bad debt protection is like health insurance: you only get cover if the customer is fit and healthy. With recourse factoring, the factor can be more flexible in its level of funding."

Another obvious trend is the growth in invoice discounting. From 1984 to 1994 it expanded by a compound rate of just over 28 per cent, according to the ABFD. The trend continues with expansion this year in the first six months increasing by 35 per cent to £9.7 billion.
To be eligible, a business usually needs a sales turnover in the region of £750,000 and a solid profit track record. Tim Lea and Wendy Trollope, industry specialists, point out that with invoice discounting companies are able to maintain complete control of their relationships with their customers, who can sometimes

be totally unaware of the factor's involvement. In some quarters the historic stigma associated with disclosed factoring is still prevalent.
They also point to the role of improved technology. Factoring firms are looking now to advances such as electronic data interchange (EDI), which does away with postal transactions, to establish a competitive edge.
Martin Forman, managing director of TSB Factors, believes that "advances in computer technology have allayed the fears of many prospective clients that they would lose touch with their customers once the factor took over the running of the sales ledger".
There is constant competition to refine the quality of service. For example, most

factors now guarantee payout on a presented invoice within 24 hours. TSB Factors, however, promises a same-day payout by 3.30pm on invoices that are lodged by 9.30am each day. In June it offered £25 compensation

if this was not fulfilled. Factoring generally costs more than invoice discounting, Mr Allen says. "With invoice discounting a business is accessing finance and taking advantage of a credit-checking facility. Factoring involves additional services."
Although administration fees — perhaps between 0.2 and 3 per cent of turnover — may often make factoring or invoice discounting seem more expensive than an overdraft, Lea and Trollope say the benefits should be taken into account. "Moreover," they add, "unlike an overdraft, this form of finance cannot be withdrawn overnight."
A Guide to Factoring and Invoice Discounting, by Tim Lea and Wendy Trollope of Cashflow Solutions (01273-69250) is published by Chapman & Hall, price £39.50.

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Council not bound by policy or letter

Southwark London Borough Council v Logan

Before Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Auld
(Judgment October 31)

A written undertaking given by a housing authority to a tenant, who had left her previous property because of racial harassment and was squatting in another property owned by the authority, that she would not be evicted from that property unless suitable alternative property had been offered and refused for no good reason, did not form the basis of a binding contract between the parties.

Furthermore, the undertaking and the authority's express policy of giving precedence to victims of racial harassment did not give rise to an estoppel. Accordingly, the tenant had no right of occupation in the property in which she was squatting and the authority was entitled to bring possession proceedings to evict her from it.

The Court of Appeal so stated dismissing an appeal by Mrs Yvette Logan from the decision of Judge Levy, QC, who, in Central London County Court, on August 5, 1994, had made an order for possession of 21 Benwick Close, Rotherhithe, London, in favour of Southwark London Borough Council. At the same time the judge dismissed Mrs Logan's counterclaim that she was a secure tenant of the property.

Miss Elizabeth-Anne Gumbel, who did not appear below, for Mrs Logan; Mr Nicholas K. Nicol for the council.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that Mrs Logan had lived in 21 Benwick Close since the end of 1985 with her four children. Before that she had lived with her husband and her children in a two-bedroomed first floor council flat

at 18 Hythe House of which she had been a tenant since 1975. Mrs Logan and her family were subjected to serious racial harassment at 18 Hythe House. Moreover, the accommodation there was inadequate and in 1979 Mrs Logan was placed on the register for a transfer on the basis that the flat was overcrowded.

In 1985 the council adopted a policy on racial harassment which provided that victims of racial harassment should be transferred to accommodation of an equal or higher standard. In July 1985 Mrs Logan was offered another flat in a building away from Hythe House but the offer was withdrawn because the flat had only four bedrooms and by then Mrs Logan was registered as being in need of five.

Meanwhile the Greater London Council was proceeding with a new development which included 21 Benwick Close. Southwark was allocated half the development. Mrs Logan heard about the development and on December 30 or 31, she moved into 21 Benwick Close with her family.

The council took steps to regain possession because another family had been offered the house. Mrs Logan could not be persuaded to leave and in 1986 possession proceedings were brought.

An order for possession was made in the High Court on May 8, 1986. Mrs Logan was told that she should leave the property within 14 days. But the order was not enforced at that stage. The other family were pressing to get into the house but Mrs Logan refused to go.

At that time the Rotherhithe district housing manager was Mrs Ross who on August 8, 1986 wrote to Mrs Logan. It was an important letter because it formed the main basis for Mrs Logan's claim that

she was entitled to remain where she was.

The letter stated: "You are registered as a family requiring five bedroom accommodation and are of the highest priority because of the racial harassment experienced by you and members of your family at 18 Hythe House... I promise that the court order obtained in May 1986 against you will not be enforced unless it is proved that you have been offered a suitable place and have refused it for no good reason..."

On January 18, 1991 a notice to quit was served but there was a delay of over a year before the present proceedings were started on May 17, 1992. The possession proceedings came on before Judge Levy on July 27, 1994. On August 5 the judge made the order which was the subject of the appeal.

Before the judge it was contended that Mrs Logan was the tenant of the house but the contention had been only faintly pursued in the Court of Appeal. The main arguments for Mrs Logan were (a) that the letter of August 28, 1986 gave her a contractual right to remain or (b) that the council was estopped from disputing her right to remain and was estopped from bringing the possession proceedings.

His Lordship had carefully considered Miss Gumbel's arguments but it seemed that the case in contract was hopeless. It was accepted by Miss Gumbel that no term was agreed as to any payment which Mrs Logan was to make for her occupation of 21 Benwick Close. That would have been an essential term of any contract.

It was true that in certain circumstances a fact could constitute either express or implied consideration sufficient to support a contract. But the for-

ance must be at the express or implied request of the other party to the contract. In the present case none of the matters set out in the amended defence was sufficient.

As to the argument based on estoppel, the first submission under that heading was that the judge should have found that a proprietary estoppel had been established. It was said that Mrs Logan had suffered a detriment because in reliance on the assurance given in the letter of August 28, 1986 she had given up her tenancy of 18 Hythe House.

Miss Gumbel directed the court's attention to reports made in the housing management sub-committee dated April 18, 1989 and April 5, 1990 which stated that in April 1988 Mrs Logan had given up the tenancy of Hythe House on the understanding that she would not be evicted from 21 Benwick Close unless suitable alternative accommodation was available.

Miss Gumbel was right to bring those passages to the court's attention. But it seemed to his Lordship abundantly clear that the termination of the tenancy of 18 Hythe House had nothing whatever to do with the letter of August 28, 1986.

Mrs Logan moved out of Hythe House on her own initiative at the end of December 1985. She had no intention of moving back. But even if, contrary to that view, the tenancy of Hythe House was not formally terminated until April 1988 that termination could not in the circumstances of the case be regarded as a detriment suffered by Mrs Logan. She had effectively severed her connection with Hythe House at the end of 1985.

Miss Gumbel argued that Mrs Logan was entitled to succeed even in the absence of a detriment suffered by her. She argued that the letter of August 28 contained a

promise which gave rise to an estoppel, that Mrs Ross intended to create legal relations between the council and Mrs Logan; that she intended that the promise would be acted on; and that Mrs Logan acted on the promise, presumably, by continuing to occupy 21 Benwick Close.

It seemed clear that the estoppel on which Miss Gumbel sought to rely on that aspect of the case was a principle of equity. It was therefore necessary for the court to consider whether Mrs Logan was entitled to invoke the assistance of equity.

The case had to be looked at as a whole. Mrs Logan was now a single mother, the marriage having broken up in 1987. Three of the children, however, were now adults.

His Lordship was troubled by the fact that Mrs Logan had in the past been a victim of racial harassment. The council also had clearly been greatly troubled by that aspect of the matter. But the council had responsibilities to all its tenants and its assistance in placing those responsibilities in the balance, could it be said that it would be inequitable to allow the council to recover possession of the house?

It was to be hoped that the council would do what it could to help the family in the future. But his Lordship had come to the conclusion that it would not be right to set aside the order for possession.

Anyone reading the papers in the case would be bound to conclude that the council acted in good faith and in the interests of Mrs Logan's difficulties. The appeal was dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE AULD agreed.

Solicitors: Winston & Co. Notting Hill; Mr Clive Grace, Southwark.

Revill v Newberry

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Millett
(Judgment November 2)

A plaintiff in a personal injury claim for damages for negligence was not debarred from recovering damages even if he was a trespasser and engaged in criminal activities when the injury was suffered. If the defendant had used greater violence than was justified in self-defence and was negligent even by reference to the standard of care to be expected from a reasonable man placed in the situation in which the defendant found himself.

The judge had also found, applying the usual standards of responsibility and fault which govern the defence of contributory negligence that the plaintiff himself was two-thirds responsible for his injuries.

The finding of negligence was challenged by Mr Escent Cox on appeal. His Lordship agreed with Lord Justice Neill that the finding was entirely justified in the circumstances. The finding implied that the defendant used violence towards the plaintiff which exceeded the limits of the law permitted by lawful self-defence.

His second contention was that the defendant had a complete defence by the application of the rule of law expressed only in the Latin phrase *ex turpi causa non oritur actio*. The limits of the rule in cases concerned with ownership or possession, where one party sought to enforce or take advantage of an illegal transaction, were considered and re-established by the House of Lords in *Tinsley v Milligan* [1994] 1 AC 340.

Lord Goff of Chieveley, dissenting, referred to recent cases not decided by the House, which considered how the rule applied where the action was brought in tort rather than in a contractual or property context. Such cases gave rise to different considerations where an illegal transaction was involved.

The present case could also be distinguished from the criminal enterprise type of case exemplified by *Pitts v Hunt* [1991] 1 QB 24. The issue in the present case was whether the plaintiff in a personal injury claim for damages for negligence was debarred from making any recovery where he was a trespasser and engaged in criminal activities when the injury was suffered. Any broad test of causation was satisfied in such a case, because he would not have sustained the injury caused by the defendant unless he had been where he was and acting as he was at the relevant time.

Those were the factors of fault and responsibility which were taken into account when assessing

the issue of contributory negligence. So the question whether there was a complete defence would only have practical relevance to that proportion of the liability which as between the plaintiff and the defendant it was adjudged that the defendant should bear.

That did not mean that the rule could not apply, because the underlying principle was that there was a public interest which required that the wrongdoer should not benefit from his crime or other offence.

But it would mean, if it did apply to circumstances such as the present, that the trespasser was also a criminal who was effectively an outlaw, who was debarred by the law from recovering compensation for any injury which he might sustain.

It was one thing to deny to a plaintiff any fruits from his illegal conduct, but different and more far reaching to deny him even of compensation for injury which he had suffered and which otherwise he was entitled to recover at law.

It was abundantly clear, in his Lordship's judgment, that the trespasser/criminal was not an outlaw, and it was noteworthy that even the old common law authorities recognised the existence of some duty towards trespassers.

His Lordship also noted that the report of the Law Commission *Liability for Damage or Injury to Trespassers* (Cmd 6428) discussed the extent of the occupier's duty towards trespassers in the context of "other possible limitations upon the duty of care". It was not suggested that no duty of any sort was owed to the trespasser and it followed that the law recognised that the plaintiff had some rights, however limited, which the law did recognise and protect.

That was sufficient, in his Lordship's judgment, to answer the defendant's contention that there was a rule or principle of law which relieved him of all liability or which conversely deprived the plaintiff of any right to recover damages in the present case.

Such a rule would make it unnecessary to consider the precise scope of the defendant's duty towards the plaintiff or to apply the rules of contributory negligence. The claim would fail in any event. Lord Justice Millett gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Turner, Kenneth Brown for Walter Scott & Ross, Ilkerton; Miles & Cash, Eastwood.

Power to order security for costs circumscribed

Condiffe v Hislop and Another

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Sir Roger Parker
(Judgment October 31)

The court had no jurisdiction to entertain an application by a defendant in a libel action for an order for security for costs against an impecunious plaintiff whose action was being financed by a third party.

Order 23 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, which dealt with security for costs, was exhaustive as to the circumstances in which that jurisdiction might be exercised.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Mr Ian Hislop and Pre-gram Ltd, from the order made on July 15, 1994 by Sir Michael Davies, in the Queen's Bench Division, whereby he allowed an appeal from the decision of Deputy Master Ashion on

May 12, 1994, ordering the plaintiff, Mr John Stuart Condiffe, to provide security for the defendants' costs in the sum of £5,000. In default of which further proceedings in the action would be stayed.

The plaintiff commenced proceedings against the defendants seeking damages for libel. Thereafter he and his wife were adjudged bankrupt. Following inquiries by the defendants' solicitors the plaintiff's mother gave an undertaking to pay any court order in respect of the defendants' costs, that undertaking was subsequently withdrawn.

Mr David Eady, QC and Miss Adrienne Page for the defendants; Mr Geoffrey Shaw, QC, for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that, as Mr Eady conceded, the plaintiff did not fall within the scope of Order 23, rule 1, which was clearly directed at plaintiffs against whom, because they were abroad or concealing their identity, or were shielding themselves

behind a nominal plaintiff, it might be difficult to enforce an order for costs.

Means were not relevant, except in the case of a nominal plaintiff, and, as Mr Shaw pointed out, the law was in general anxious not to shut out the individual plaintiff who was of limited means.

There was no other Rule of the Supreme Court on which Mr Eady could rely, so his submission had to be that Order 23 was not exhaustive as to the circumstances in which the court might order security for costs.

He sought to rely on the inherent jurisdiction of the court. Order 23 on the face of it appeared to be specific as to the circumstances in which security for costs could be ordered, even to the extent of providing in rule 3 for enactments which empowered the court to require security to be given.

If Order 23, rule 1 was not intended to be exhaustive as to the circumstances in which the jurisdiction might be exercised, then

rule 3 would seem to be surplusage, and in *C. T. Bowring & Co (Insurance) Ltd v Corsi Partners Ltd* [1994] 2 Lloyd's Rep 567 members of the Court of Appeal expressed the view that Order 23, rule 1 was exhaustive.

Recognising the problems which he faced arising out of the wording of Order 23 and the *Bowring* case, Mr Eady submitted that the court had always had power to defend itself against abuse, and to make use of orders for security for costs and orders to stay proceedings to that end.

Maintenance was still an abuse, even if it was no longer a crime, or tort, or so where, as in the instant case, a plaintiff had been shown to be a maintained plaintiff, an order for security for costs enforced by means of a stay should, he submitted, normally be made.

His Lordship said that it had already been established in 1966 (before sections 3(1) and 14(1) of the Criminal Law Act 1967 abolished, respectively, the criminal offence

and tort of maintenance) that a close relative would be regarded as lawfully justified and not guilty of maintenance in any sense if he or she were to give direct or indirect financial assistance to a person who was in the position of the plaintiff in the instant case.

Since 1966 nothing had happened to render illegal the actions of the plaintiff's mother.

His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON and **SIR ROGER PARKER** agreed.

Solicitors: Davenport Lyons; Peter Carrier-Ruck & Partners.

Scots Law Report November 3 1995 House of Lords

Appeal available on point of law only

Martinez v Granplan Health Board

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Mustill, Lord Lloyd of Berwick and Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead
(Speeches November 2)

Where a case originated in the sheriff court the jurisdiction of the House of Lords in relation to the appeal, pursuant to section 32(5) of the Court of Session Act 1988, was limited only to matters of law.

The purpose of the section was to keep down the costs of sheriff court actions by excluding appeals to the House on questions of fact.

The House of Lords so stated in dismissing an appeal by the pursuer, Mr Jose Martinez, from an interlocutor dated February 23, 1994 of an Extra Division of the Court of Session (Lord Murray, Lord Cameron of Lochbroom and Lord Cullen), whereby the court recalled the interlocutor dated December 17, 1992 of the sheriff principal (Mr Roland Ireland, QC) at Aberdeen which granted decree in favour of Mr Martinez.

The sheriff principal, on appeal by Mr Martinez, had recalled the interlocutor of the sheriff (Mr David Bogie) who in an action of

reparation by Mr Martinez against the defendants, Granplan Health Board, his employers, for personal injuries had absolved Granplan.

Mr John L. Mitchell, QC and Mr Neil Beynon for Mr Martinez; Mr Philip H. Brodie, QC and Miss Lucy Keane for Granplan.

LORD JAUNCEY said that Mr Martinez slipped on the step of a staircase in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary where he was employed as a porter and sustained injury.

In his action of reparation in Aberdeen Sheriff Court against his employers he averred that he slipped because of the eroded state of the tread of the step and that Granplan were negligent in not repairing the erosion.

Because the case originated in the sheriff court the House's jurisdiction in relation to the appeal was limited to consideration of matters of law: see section 32(4) and (5) of the 1988 Act.

The sheriff principal found as a fact that Mr Martinez while descending the stairs was taking reasonable care to see where he was going and slipped because of the worn and eroded condition of the step. He also found that the

erosion constituted a slip or fall hazard to persons descending the staircase.

The Extra Division made no alteration to the findings as to the cause of the accident but made certain alterations to the findings relative to fault.

Reading those findings, with alterations, in conjunction with necessary with the judgment of the Extra Division, it was apparent that the phrase "potential hazard" as used there did not refer to an existing danger and that there was no other finding that the condition of the treads constituted a real risk of injury.

It was not contended that the findings were unsupported by or contrary to evidence. It therefore followed that no question of law arose and the appeal must fail.

His Lordship took the opportunity of clarifying an observation he made in *Laing v Scottish Grain Distillers Ltd* (1992) SLT 435, 437H, in which the issue was whether there should be a remit to the Second Division for it to make further findings of fact.

After analysis of three earlier cases falling within the ambit of section 40 of the Court of Session Act 1925, his Lordship said: "It is clear to persons these cases that this House has no jurisdiction to embark upon an examination of evidence given in the sheriff court, but is restricted to consideration of questions of law arising out of the pleadings and the findings in fact of the Court of Session".

No question as to the legitimacy of looking at the opinions of the Second Division arose and the lack of reference thereto in the above section was not to be taken as support for the proposition that it was illegitimate to look at them.

The law was as stated by Lord Sutherland in *Glasgow Corporation v MacLeod* (1951) SC (HL) 1, 10-11. The purpose of section 32 of the 1988 Act was to keep down the costs of sheriff court actions by excluding appeals to the House of Lords on questions of fact and restricting appeals to those in which there was a genuine question of law.

Lord Goff, Lord Mustill, Lord Lloyd and Lord Nicholls agreed.

Solicitors: Levison, Gray for Drummond, Miller & Co, Edinburgh for the Frank Levison Practice, Aberdeen; Mr Ronald F. Macdonald, Edinburgh.

Firefighters not immune from suit

Duff v Highland and Islands Fire Board

Before Lord Macdadyen
(Judgment September 27)

A fire brigade did not, in operational matters, enjoy an immunity for negligence analogous to that which protected the police in relation to the investigation and suppression of crime.

Moreover, since the attendance of a fire brigade to put out a fire at a house was in performance of a statutory duty, rather than an exercise of a discretionary power, their duties were not restricted merely ensuring that they did not add to the damage that the householder would have suffered had they done nothing.

Lord Macdadyen, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so commented, absolving the Highland and Islands Fire Board in an action of reparation brought against them by Mrs Sheila Duff and others.

Section 1 of the Fire Services Act 1947 provides: "(1) It shall be the duty of every fire authority in Great Britain to make provision for fire-fighting purposes, and in particular every fire authority shall secure— (a) the services for their area of such a fire brigade and such equipment as may be necessary to meet efficiently all normal requirements... (c) efficient arrangements for dealing with calls for the assistance of the fire brigade in case of fire."

Mr Edgar Owen, QC and Miss Jane Faulkner for the pursuers; Mr Ian Mackay QC and Mr Jonathan Lake for the defenders.

LORD MACDADYEN said that the defenders had been called out to the house adjoining the pursuers' twice in one evening. They had left only to be recalled when it turned out that despite their first

visit the neighbour's house was still on fire.

Upon their return, they had been unable to bring the fire under control and it had destroyed the pursuer's house.

Her case against them proceeded on the basis that when they had left after their first visit, smoke had still been present in a bedroom in the neighbour's house, the source of which they had not investigated. That case had not been established by the evidence.

In the circumstances the other issues raised did not arise for decision, but it was appropriate that his Lordship should indicate his views on them.

The defenders had submitted that, if the pursuer established her case on the fact, she had nevertheless not established any novus actus interveniens on the part of the defenders that broke the chain of causation between the initial and primary cause of the loss, the neighbour's having allowed his chimney to be in such a condition as to go on fire.

In *East Suffolk Rivers Catchment Board v Kent* [1941] AC 743, it had been held that where a statutory authority exercised a discretion to do something in pursuance of a statutory power, the only duty owed to a member of the public was not thereby to add to the damage which that person would have suffered had the authority done nothing; the authority could not be made liable for any damage that would have been avoided had it exercised its discretion in a more reasonable way, but would have been suffered if there had been no intervention at all.

His Lordship did not regard the *East Suffolk* case as very satisfactory, and was reassured to find that that view had been shared by

Lord Salmon in *Ann v Merton London Borough Council* [1978] AC 728, 764F.

The dissenting speech of Lord Atkin in *East Suffolk* was more convincing than the view of the majority. Be that as it may, the case was distinguishable because it depended essentially on the fact that the authority was exercising a mere power, and was under no statutory duty.

That was not the situation here. Certainly there was no express statutory duty on the defenders to exercise reasonable care in the fighting of fires. Fundamentally however, the intervention of the defenders stemmed not from an exercise of pure discretionary power, but from performance of the duties imposed by section 1 of the 1947 Act.

Had it been necessary to decide the issue, his Lordship would have held the destruction of the pursuer's house to have been caused by the defenders' failure to extinguish the fire completely.

The defenders had also submitted that they owed the pursuers no common-law duty to take reasonable care in the course of their fire-fighting operations. Reference had been made (a) to the absence of any such duty imposed by statute, and (b) to the proposition that it would be contrary to public policy to impose such a duty.

However, in the *East Suffolk* case, it had been recognised that, even in the case of a mere power, an authority which chose to exercise the power came under a common-law duty to take reasonable care not to inflict additional damage by doing so.

His Lordship therefore did not regard the question of whether and to what extent a statutory duty existed as necessarily determinative of whether a common-

law duty of care existed.

The defenders' public-policy argument depended on the analogy with the law relating to the liability of the police for negligence in the detection of crime: see *Hill v Chief Constable of West Yorkshire* (1989) 1 AC 53, 63; *Alexandrou v Oxford* (1993) 4 All ER 328; *Osman v Ferguson* (1993) 4 All ER 344 and *Ansell v McDermott* (1993) RTR 23.

The proposition that the public-policy considerations affecting the fire service were the same as those affecting the police appeared to his Lordship to rest on nothing more than assertion.

There was a risk that the existence of potential liability might tend to encourage a defensive approach to their operations, but that argument could be deployed with at least as much force in the context of medical and other professional negligence and there was no question of public policy excluding liability in those categories of case.

It was no doubt right that in operational matters much had to be left to the professional judgment of the firefighters, but that could be achieved by applying a test analogous to the professional negligence test in determining what amounted to negligence.

It was going too far in his Lordship's view to suggest, as the defenders did, that operational judgment should be immune from challenge.

The dicta of Lord Clyde in *Ward v Chief Constable of Strathclyde* (1991) SLT 292, where it was held that a person injured when police sought to disperse a crowd had to prove negligence and want of probable cause, fell to be read secundum subjectam materiam.

Law agents: Todd Murray, WS: Simpson & Marwick, WS.



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Main responsibilities in this post will relate to research and to the management of the educational activities of the Department.

Senior Lecturer in Horticulture (Post 2) (Reference: 95/41)

Candidates should possess an Honours Degree in Horticulture or allied discipline supported by relevant postgraduate qualifications and/or industrial experience in production or environmental horticulture.

The successful candidate will have an established record in applied research and consultancy.

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Candidates should be graduates in Horticulture or related studies with specialist knowledge and expertise in landscape design and management. Duties include the provision of courses concerned with urban and rural designed landscapes, supervision of postgraduate students, research and consultancy.

Salaries, depending on qualifications and experience will be: Senior Lecturer: £19,699 - £31,492

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Application forms and further particulars for each of these posts may be obtained from the Personnel Unit, SAC Auchincruive, Ayr, KA6 5HW, (telephone 01292 520331) by quoting the relevant reference number.

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Applications for these Fellowships are advised to make informal contact with the head of the department with which they wish to be associated before submitting an application.

Further particulars and application forms (returnable by November 24th 1995) are available from the Director of Personnel, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL. (tel. 0161 275 2022). Please state for which Fellowship details are required and quote appropriate reference number.

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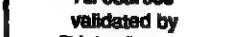
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EDUCATION

Why we closed Hackney

Michael Barber explains the reasoning behind the report he helped to write on Hackney Downs School

No one likes to see a once great school closed down. Yet the decision of the North East London Education Association to close Hackney Downs School has received widespread support.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, is "minded" to approve its recommendations, though her final decision will depend upon the consultation exercise now in progress. The Labour Party has backed the decision, demonstrating David Blunkett's firm commitment to high standards and expectations.

Most commentators in the press recognise the case for closure, too, while in Hackney many secondary heads and local education authority officials and politicians will welcome the decision privately, if not publicly.

The level of support reflects the overwhelming logic of the case. By any standards the boys at Hackney Downs have not been receiving the education they deserve and desperately need.

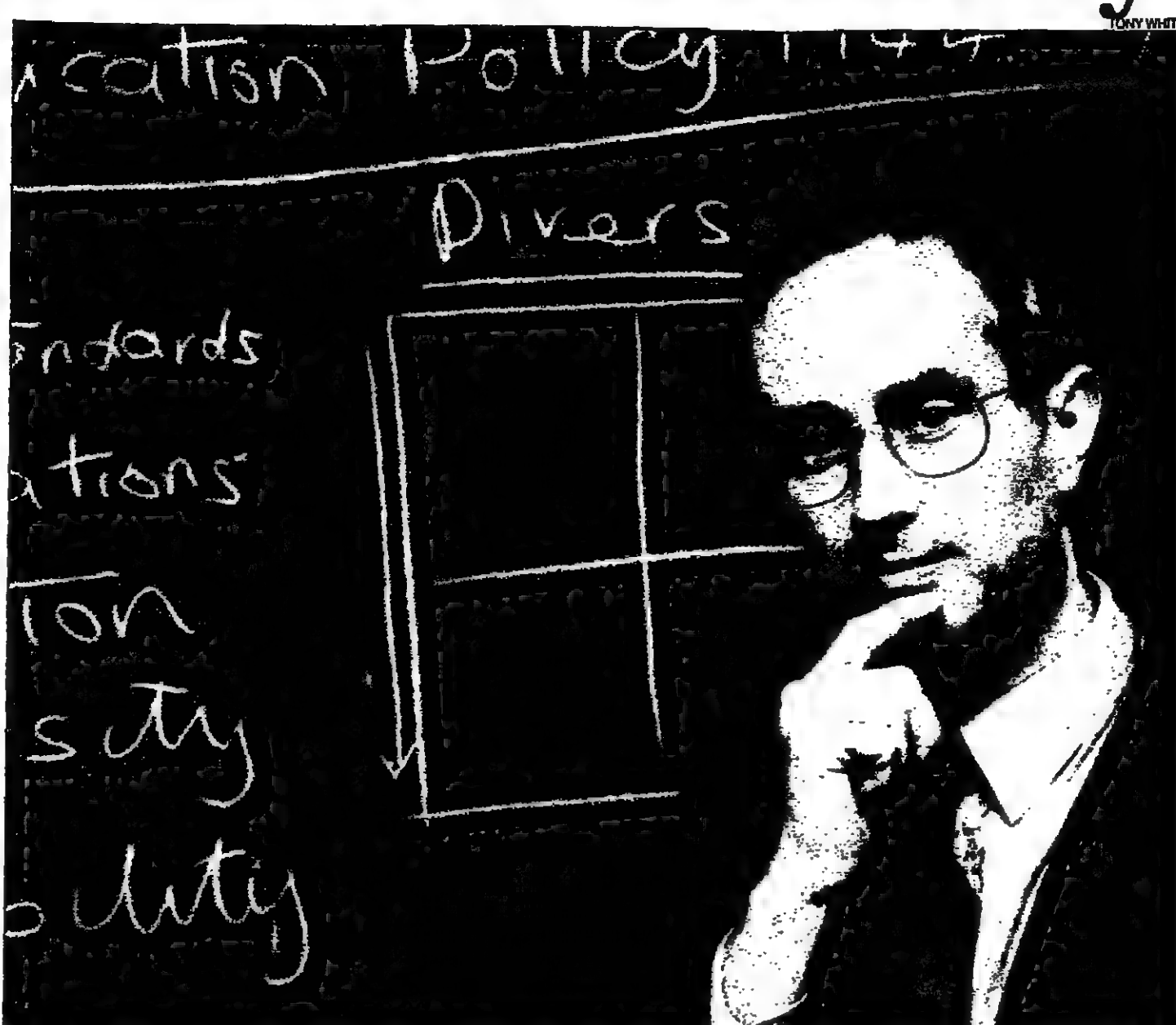
As we said in our report on the school, "low expectations, slow pace and poor behaviour seem to be locked together in a destructive spiral". To some extent the present staff are victims of history and circumstances, but our prime concern must surely be the pupils.

Though clearly Hackney Downs has a disadvantaged intake, it is not unique in this respect. There are many other, more successful schools whose intakes are equally or even more disadvantaged. In Hackney, for example, three other schools which are more successful than Hackney Downs have a higher percentage of pupils entitled to free school meals.

Moreover, they achieve their success at a much lower cost. The boys in Hackney Downs are being short-changed, even though the pupil-teacher ratio of 8:1 — half the national average — is one of the most favourable in the country. Expenditure in Hackney Downs is running at £6,499 per pupil per year, almost three times the national average for pupils in state secondary schools.

That extraordinary amount of money is being spent literally at the expense of other Hackney pupils. Anyone wanting to keep the school open would have to justify what, in effect, would be daylight robbery from other pupils in the borough.

Parents and pupils are understandably concerned about the closure. The education authority came firmly to the view that the



Professor Michael Barber: keeping the school open would, in effect, be daylight robbery from other pupils in the borough

best way to improve the education for the pupils at Hackney Downs was to offer them places as soon as possible at an improving school, where they had a realistic opportunity of succeeding within the foreseeable future. Hornerton House School, one mile away, will provide precisely that. We have urged Gillian Shephard to support, with up to £1 million, a programme of refurbishment at Hornerton House so that it can become an excellent inner-city boys' school.

Our most pressing concern is the final year pupils who will take GCSE this year. Hornerton House will make special arrangements for them so that the teaching they have had and the coursework they have completed is recognised and built upon. Moreover, if Gillian Shephard approves the closure decision, the Government will pay to provide these pupils with additional classes, after school, at weekends and over the Easter holiday.

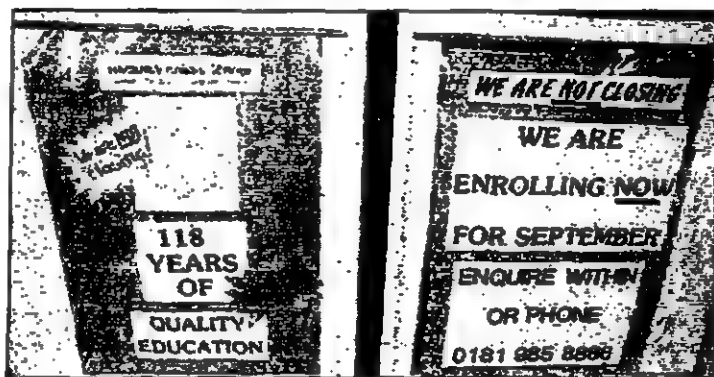
This intensive programme offers them a much better chance of success than they would otherwise have had. The education association

will be giving the highest priority to working with staff in the local education authority and both schools to ensure that the transition runs as smoothly as possible.

Though our report has focused entirely on meeting the needs of young people in Hackney, no doubt there are lessons to be drawn nationally. The most important is that it has made it crystal clear that what matters is the quality of education provided, not the building it takes place in. If pupils can be

assured of a better educational experience at other near by schools it is better to close a failing school and invest in more successful schools than to pour good money after bad.

But what if there are no places available near by? If the school has the potential to improve from within its existing staff, this should be built upon. If not, then a fresh start where the school is closed and a new one reopened on the same site is likely to be the best option.



Battleground: windows at the school earlier this year

Susan Elkin on a vital involvement in secondary schools

Jane, a secondary school teacher, was astonished when I told her I had just completed a report about parental involvement in schools like her own. "But surely that's just for primary schools," she said. She neatly summed up a common attitude among many teachers and parents.

Yet wise secondary school managers know that there is a clear link between the effectiveness of a school and the strength of its home-school relationships.

Once it is acknowledged as a good thing for secondary school parents to be positively involved in their children's education there are two key questions: what do we mean by involvement and how should schools go about getting it?

There are two sorts of involvement. The first concerns a parent taking an active interest in the school insofar as it directly affects his or her own child.

Schools which seek to involve every parent as fully as possible hold accessible meetings to explain the new secondary curriculum. They frequently send home friendly and clearly written communications about extracurricular activities, events, achievements and proposed changes. They seek every possible opportunity to meet parents in a spirit of open partnership.

Secondly, there is a broader involvement in which parents assume some whole-school responsibility which goes beyond the needs of their own children. They might volunteer to help at school in some practical way. They could, for instance, help in classrooms, referee matches, coach sports, play in the school orchestra,

Challenge to the parents

give clerical help or help to supervise school trips. And, yes, that does still need doing — even at secondary schools.

The presence of parents around the school and its activities helps to break down the artificial home-school divide and transmits a loud message that parents are a



On the ball: a mother helps with netball at the Thomas Telford School, Shropshire

valued part of the school community, not an alien race. I found one school which asks all parents what — if anything — they are able to volunteer in the way of time, talent or labour and keeps the information handy on a database.

Other forms of broad parental involvement include working with, or serving on, the committee of the PTA. It might also lead to standing as a parent governor.

The more parents know and are involved with the school the better. However, the Government's "parent power" notion is dangerous because of its confrontational connota-

tions. Teachers, students and parents need to work closely together in partnership. Power struggles should not be part of the equation.

Unfortunately, mutual feelings of mistrust and insecurity, often leading to an urge to dominate, have too often dogged home/school relationships. Teachers are traditionally wary of parents: especially the ones they fear might know too much. Only a generation ago many school entrances still displayed their old Victorian painted signs: "No parents beyond this point."

Some parents, on the other hand, may feel intimidated by schools and teachers.

All parents were once pupils and some still harbour unhappy memories. Teachers and school buildings make them feel threatened and wary: feelings which sometimes masquerade as aggression or which prevent them from ever coming to the school.

In the middle of all this are the pupils who, as they grow into adolescence, may succumb to the

temptation to play off one group of disunited adults against the other — and that is the root of many secondary school problems which get in the way of effective teaching and learning.

Good secondary schools are working hard to break down these barriers and to open the way for constructive parental involvement based on rapport and trust. This is increasingly seen as an important way to improve the quality of secondary education.

© Susan Elkin's report Working with Parents, £1.50 from City Technology College Trust, 9 Whitehall, London SW1A 2DD.

How can it cost too much to employ me?

Barry Jones, who has been teaching for 22 years, tries in vain to find a new post

I am a 49-year-old teacher made redundant two years ago, and since then have found my chances of a job denied not by my experience, but the economic pressures on schools.

Although primarily a teacher of English, during my 22 years in teaching I have taught all age ranges and most subjects, including adult GCE to O-level standard, and have taught adult non-readers and English to foreign students.

I moved to the Isle of Wight four years ago. When we first arrived, there seemed a fair amount of supply teaching available and I worked in several schools, including a very enjoyable 18 months at one of the high schools.

I was encouraged by the then deputy head to apply for the post that I had been filling on a temporary basis, which was about to be made permanent. Unfortunately, they also needed a head of the sixth form and the teacher appointed happened to offer English as a main subject, which meant that my services were no longer required. That was in July 1993.

Since then there has been nothing and I have been forced onto unemployment benefit. Three head teachers have told me that I

am too expensive to employ now that local management of schools is fully implemented, a situation two other teachers I know of also share.

If the counsellor in the jobcentre is to be believed, many other teachers are in a similar situation. Surely, if people are being discriminated against because their age and experience make them too expensive to employ, then a local authority's claim to be an equal opportunities employer must be invalid.

I put his point to my local Conservative MP and to the Director of Education. They both acknowledged that discrimination in favour of younger, and therefore cheaper, teachers was happening.

I have applied for three jobs on the Isle of Wight this year, and, despite my experience, have been unable even to obtain an interview — on investigation it turned out that all three vacancies had been filled by newly qualified teachers.

I also applied for many jobs on the mainland and, although for some I was given an interview, once again the posts were given to newly qualified teachers. This must be more than just a coincidence.

During the past few months, I have tried to find suitable work, but to no avail. I have been on a job review workshop, where I took a differential aptitude test and scored 85 per cent. I was told I was suitable for all manner of quality jobs — the trouble is that there is no work.

I have attended a job search seminar, which was useful and left me feeling quite invigorated. I have put much of what I learnt there to practical use, with letters of application, CV presentation etc, but again to no avail, because there are simply no jobs.

I contacted Wight Training and Enterprise (WTE), which advertises a service for those who want a change of career, or those who are returning to the job market. WTE directed me to the careers service, where I was given a career interview and subsequently a written assessment. This told me nothing of any use, nothing new.

The only other thing they sent me was a booklet on Voluntary Service Overseas! So much for helping people to make a career move or get back into work. The hard fact is that there seem to be no jobs around that meet my skills and experience.

My family and I are willing to relocate. We have had our house on the market for more than two years, but there appear to be very few buyers for family homes in the middle price range, despite the fact that we have dropped the price by over £20,000.

So we cannot move to go where there might be more work, and I cannot get work here. At the moment we feel trapped. I have been on benefit and want to get back into the job market — I have been working since 1962.

In conclusion, I want to make clear my feelings about how this Government has failed me and people like me. I am in good health, with many years of good working life left, and much still to contribute to the young people passing through the education system.

And what do I find? As a direct result of the Government's education and economic policies, I cannot find work, and must try to support a family on state benefits.

What a waste of my talent and skills this is. What a drain on the country's coffers, what a loss to the education system and young people's futures, to keep qualified people such as myself away from the very thing they do best.

'What a waste of my talent and skills this is'

A prize date at the Palace

Competition is expected to be fierce among British universities and colleges for the chance to earn their place in the sun at Buckingham Palace to receive one of the Queen's Anniversary Prizes, David Charter writes.

Twenty-one "world-class" projects were chosen by the judges for the first awards in 1994 from a field of more than 350 entries. The successful institutions won high praise from the Queen at the awards ceremony for their demonstration of the spirit of "enterprise, resourcefulness and flair" to be found at higher and further education institutions.

The Queen said: "They are an impressive reflection of the great diversity of work taking place and an insight into many different areas in which institutions are directing their activities at international, national and local levels."

Under the scheme, which will run every other year until 2002, universities and colleges are invited to enter one project or area of work demonstrating national excellence. It must have been started or renewed within the past three years and the benefit arising from it must be likely to continue for at least five years beyond the closing date.

Last year's winners included courses at Aberdeen College in explosion safety management, after the Piper Alpha disaster, and in heritage and conservation at Bournemouth University.

Widening access to education was one area which caught the judges' eye in the

inaugural awards. City & Islington College, in London, was praised for helping students to make the most of their abilities by offering study directly relevant to their lives, and a mentor scheme tackling

the lack of role models for black students. Croydon College won its award for its flexible learning workshops which allowed students to fit study around their own lifestyle.

THE QUEEN'S ANNIVERSARY PRIZES FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION The 1996 Round



UNIVERSITIES and colleges in the United Kingdom are invited to enter the second biennial round of The Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education.

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The closing date for entries is April 30, 1996. Prizewinners will be announced at St James's Palace and in The Times in autumn 1996.

Prizes will be presented by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in early 1997.

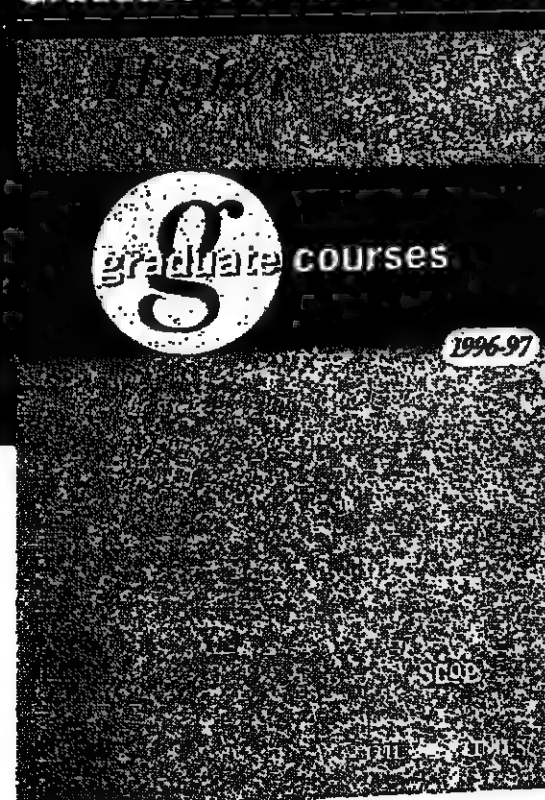
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New belt to buckle the power game

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT IN LAS VEGAS

AS BOXING followers have become used to the proliferation of world bodies in their sport it will not come as a surprise that yet another world title belt has joined the list.

The existence of the WBC, WBA, IBF, WBO, WBU, WBF, IBC, WBA and WAA prompted Seth Abraham, the head of Time Warner Sport, to say: "We are lucky that there are only 26 letters in the alphabet and we don't use Sanskrit. These belts only serve the purpose of belt manufacturers."

So, just to show that boxing can still manage without the ancient language, the new award is the NYDN belt. But before groans of exasperation fill the air, it should be said that the belt could be the belt to end all belts; with luck it could signal the end of world bodies that thrive on politics, greed and manipulation.

The belt has been donated by the New York Daily News. The newspaper, having been sickened by the unfair treatment of the world's leading heavyweights, particularly Riddick Bowe, by the three leading organisations — the World Boxing Council (WBC), the World Boxing Association (WBA) and the International Boxing Federation (IBF) — has decided to institute its own award for excellence.

Both Bowe and Evander Holyfield, who meet in their third encounter at Caesar's Palace here tomorrow, have agreed to compete for the new belt. Even though Bowe is the WBO champion, that belt will not be at stake so far as Holyfield is concerned. He does not want to box for it. "Evander just didn't want to fight for the WBO title," Bowe said. "Fine with me. I don't care."

Holyfield said: "Some guys, by having a belt, it puts them in a position of being able to command a lot more money. I

don't have a belt and I can still do that, so what does it mean?"

The New York and Washington state athletic commissions have decided to recognise the NYDN belt as the award for the world heavyweight title. Mark Ratner, the executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, said: "These two fighters are the best heavyweights in the world. I think the belt is a good idea."

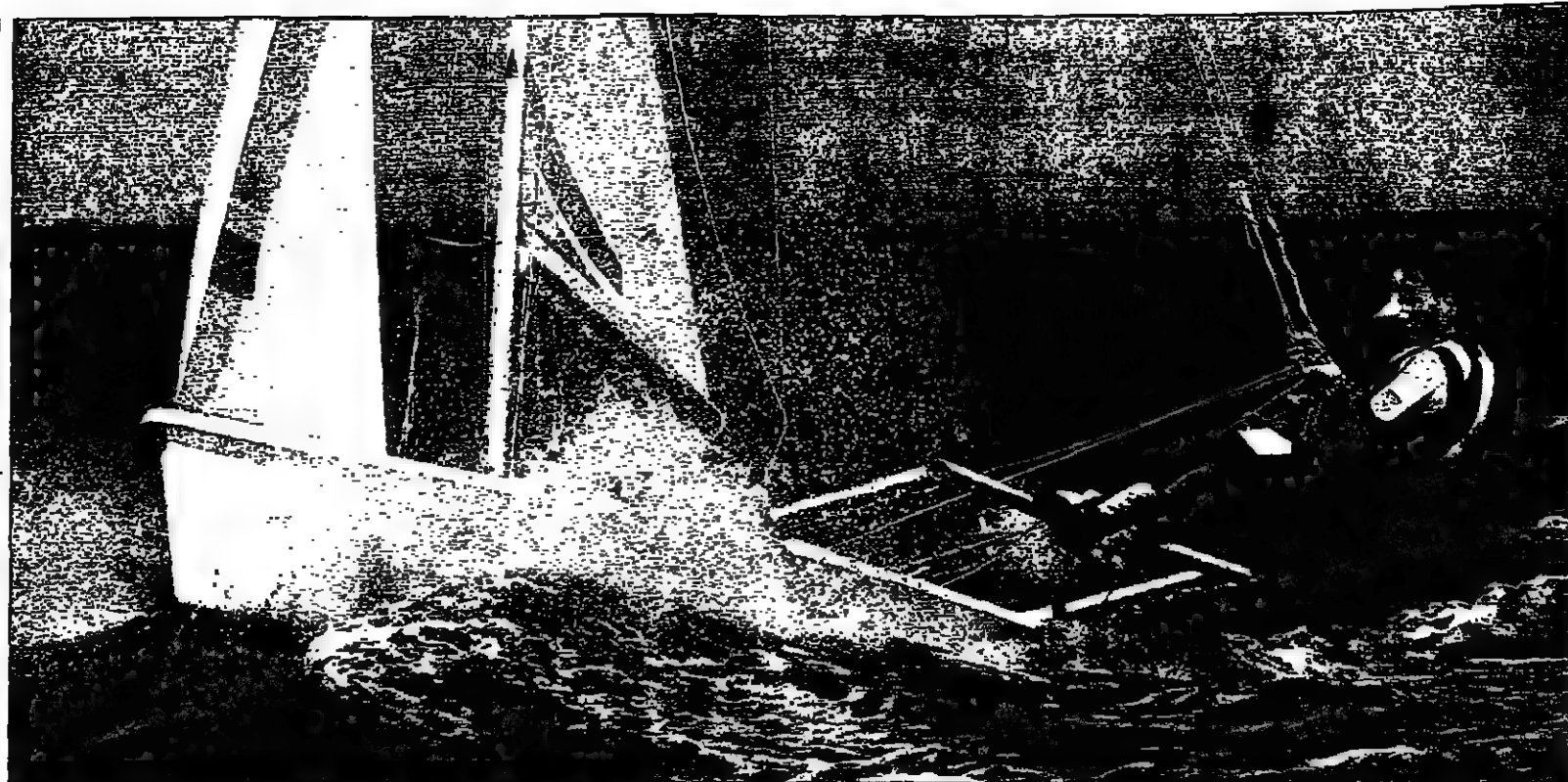
Eddie Futch, trainer of Bowe and one of the most respected figures in boxing, said: "This belt is better than any of the other belts because it represents the fight between two fighters who have both been active and always given their best. I think it should be recognised as the championship belt."

It would be a step in the right direction if other American and international commissions gave it recognition. Lennox Lewis is next in line to contest it and, by public demand, Mike Tyson would have to challenge for it one day.

Now that Tyson has bowed out of his proposed bout tomorrow with Buster Mathis Jr pleading a fractured thumb, the boxing world can concentrate on the third Bowe-Holyfield contest, with which it had been scheduled to clash.

This contest was always far better than the Tyson one, which would have lasted only one or two rounds. At least here the crowd can expect a bout as competitive as the last two, which were filled with dramatic action from start to finish.

Lewis, who is here to provide television commentary, will be at ringside to see the opponent he may be facing in March. But the main observer, whether ringside or at home in Las Vegas, will be Tyson, who will want to see the men he may one day have to meet.



The Laser 5000 showing adjustable racks, which can be altered to compensate for differing crew weights and lead to more exciting racing

Contenders aiming to set pulses racing

Barry Pickthall gets wind of two dinghies vying for competition places at the 2000 Olympic Games

A fresh initiative to make sailing more exciting to watch on the water and on television is to be launched at the International Yacht Racing Union's annual conference in Hamburg next week. Two dinghies vying for a place at the 2000 Olympic Games include the award-winning British-designed Laser 5000 and the exciting but highly specialist 18ft skiff, whose origins on Sydney Harbour go back to the 19th century.

The Laser 5000, co-designed by Phil Morrison and Derek Clarke, the former America's Cup tactician, was launched two years ago with the Sydney Olympics in mind. Its twin trapeze and giant asymmetric spinnaker guarantee excitement both for competitors and spectators, but it is the boat's adjustable trapeze racks, balancing out variables in crew weight and leverage, that sets this design apart.

The concept, developed by Clarke, allows for lightweight crews typically from Asia to compete on equal terms with the heavyweights from the United States and Europe. It works like this: All-up crew weight, including clothing, is limited to 175 kilograms. Crews who tip the scales at less than this figure, have lead weights added to the centreline of their boat. The variable righting moment between crews is balanced by adjusting the trapeze racks before racing. In simple terms, lightweighters sail with the racks fully extended, and heavyweights fly with the rack set at its minimum adjustment.

The invention has proved to be a remarkable equaliser. Richard and Ian Lovering, two former 470 Olympic class sailors weighing 130 kilograms, have been able to compete on equal terms with the former Wayfarer world champions, Jonathan and Simon Townsend, who tip the scales at the maximum 175 kilograms.

Costing £9,000, some 250 boats are now on the water and 69 competed in the Laser 5000 series televised on Sky Sport this year. Such has been the success that Audi has extended its

sponsorship to £100,000 to cover the expanded series in Europe next year. Richard Simmonds, the marketing director of Performance Sailcraft, said that they could have maximised the boat's performance by using exotic materials, but resisted. "We decided that the 5000 had to be both affordable, indestructible and would hold its value. Standard fibreglass construction was chosen to maximise longevity and equipment and sails are controlled to limit costs."

By contrast, the 18ft skiff is at the opposite end of that spectrum. At £18,000 for a basic boat with three rigs to meet varied conditions, these exciting craft are made of costly aerospace materials to minimise weight. They have raced professionally for many years in Australia and New Zealand and spread this year to Britain.

Television interests are backing the skiff's claim to international and Olympic status in time to compete in the 2000 Olympics and are sponsoring a worldwide series which will bring the Australian skiff fleet to Britain for four regattas next summer. Remarkably, there will be no links with their British counterparts, which are tied to an ITV contract and will be racing in Europe at the time.

This lack of co-ordination within the class, could well count heavily against the skiff when it comes to the vote, but the concept of exhilarating racing and exciting television coverage, could win traditionalists over in Hamburg when it comes to deciding the type of events to be staged at the Sydney Games.



An 18ft skiff displays its potential off the Australian coast near Perth

Norman forced to retire

ROSS NORMAN, 36, the London-based New Zealander who stunned the squash world in 1986 by ending the 57-year undefeated run of Jahangir Khan to win the world open championship, has retired from competition.

Constant tendonitis in his right wrist has forced the decision on a player who won his first tournament at the age of 11, and overcame severe knee injuries from a parachuting accident at Thruxton, Hampshire, to reach the peak of his career against Jahangir at Toulouse, in France.

Courier through

Tennis: Jim Courier became the first player to reach the quarter-finals of the Paris Indoor Open yesterday. The No 6 seed, from the United States, beat Magnus Larsson, of Sweden, 6-3, 6-4. Venus Williams, 15, defeated Amy Frazier, her fellow American, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the second round of the Bank of the West Classic in California.

Drivers cleared

Motor racing: Two Formula One drivers were cleared yesterday by the sport's governing body, the FIA, after admitting taking cold remedies containing banned substances. Rubens Barrichello, the Jordan-Peugeot driver, and Max Papis, who drives for Footwork-Hart, were tested at the European Grand Prix.

Britain win

Hockey: Britain's women warmed up for the Olympic Games qualifying tournament in South Africa with a 4-1 victory over Russia at Bisham Abbey yesterday, completing a hat-trick of wins in which they have scored 13 goals to Russia's one.

Veto expires

Table tennis: Chen Xinhua has been nominated to represent Great Britain in the Olympic Games next year after the expiry of the six-year right of veto which his native China exercised in 1992.

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KIMBOLTON SCHOOL

Appointment of

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Full details of the post can be obtained from The Headmaster, Kimbolton School, Kimbolton, Huntingdon Cambs. PE18 0EA.

Telephone: 01480 340565.

Closing date for applications is 30th November, 1995.

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297 Kern St, Marborough, Queensland, Australia 4002. Tel: 06-81-71-21655. Fax: 06-81-71-31422. 1996 enrolments for post-GCSE, certificate, diploma and International Baccalaureate at this private, well situated college. An Information Evening for Students, Families and Agents will take place on Tuesday, 7th Nov. 1995, 6.30 - 7.30pm, at the Cadogan Hotel, St James Street, London SW1 (0171-230-7141) and where enquiries can be left during the day.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

(Half-time) University
Accommodation Officer
Academic-Related Administrative
Grade 3; pro rata to £22,374 - £26,430

Applications are invited for the full-time post of University Accommodation Officer which is based within the University's Central Administrative Service. This is a five-year, fixed-term appointment in the first instance and it is expected to be held on a half-time basis with a corresponding adjustment of salary. The successful candidate will be responsible for ensuring the effective management of the University's own stock of student residential accommodation (SR) under the management of the University's Accommodation Office, the maintenance of the register of accommodation available for letting to students, and for acting as secretary and executive officer to the University Accommodation Committee and other related committees.

Excellent management and communication skills will be required, with a preference for previous, directly relevant experience. Further particulars may be obtained from the Deputy Registrar (Administration), University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JL, (Tel. 01865 270003), to whom applications with a curriculum vitae and two references should be sent by 1 December 1995. The University exists to promote excellence in education and research, and is an equal opportunities employer.

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Applications are invited for the full-time post of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Ref: RP-95/96-28) which will become vacant in January 1996.

The University seeks to appoint a person with a demonstrated capacity for leadership together with an established reputation in scholarship and in the senior levels of university administration. The University of Hong Kong is the longest established tertiary institution in the Territory, with nine faculties embracing a wide range of academic disciplines. It has recently undergone significant expansion, including, in particular, in the scale of its research activities.

The appointee will be expected to take a leading role in developing further the scale and quality of the University's activities in the spheres of research and postgraduate education as well as being the senior member of the Vice-Chancellor's advisory team. When necessary the appointee will deputise for the Vice-Chancellor.

Where appropriate, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor will be appointed to an Honorary Chair.

The salary for the post will be not less than the average of the non-clinical professorial range, which is currently HK\$109,816 per month. The terms of appointment will be negotiated with the selected appointee, but will be for not less than 3 years. There is no net retirement age for the post. The appointee may carry either membership of the University's superannuation fund, or a gratuity of 15% of the salary earned during the appointee's service. Housing, passages, leave, and health care are among the benefits also provided.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from Appointments (44428), Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF (Tel. 0171 387 8672 ext. 206; fax 0171 813 3065; email: appts.acu@ac.uk), or from the Appointments Unit, Registry, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (fax: (862) 2550 2068; E-mail: APPTUNIT@REG.HKU.HK). Particulars are also available on the University's listserve accessed by E-mail as "listserv@hkvm1.hku.hk" (specify "get appointment list" for list of vacant posts).

Closes 12 December 1995.

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The School is for boys and girls from two and a half to thirteen years of age. Parents who wish their children to sit the entry test or who are interested in a place at the school or the nursery for a younger child, should contact the Admissions Secretary, Devonshire House School, 2 Alnwick Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 1AA. Tel: 0171-435 1916

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It is anticipated that applicants will have recently completed (or are about to complete) a PhD degree in an area of research that is currently being pursued within the University and, if successful will be attached to the research programme of a specific department.

Applicants are advised to make informal contact with the head of the department with which they wish to be associated before submitting their application.

Further particulars and application forms (returnable by November 24th 1995) are available from the Director of Personnel, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL (tel. 0161 275 2028). Quote ref. 316/95.

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Johnston latches on to party spirit

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT
IN MELBOURNE

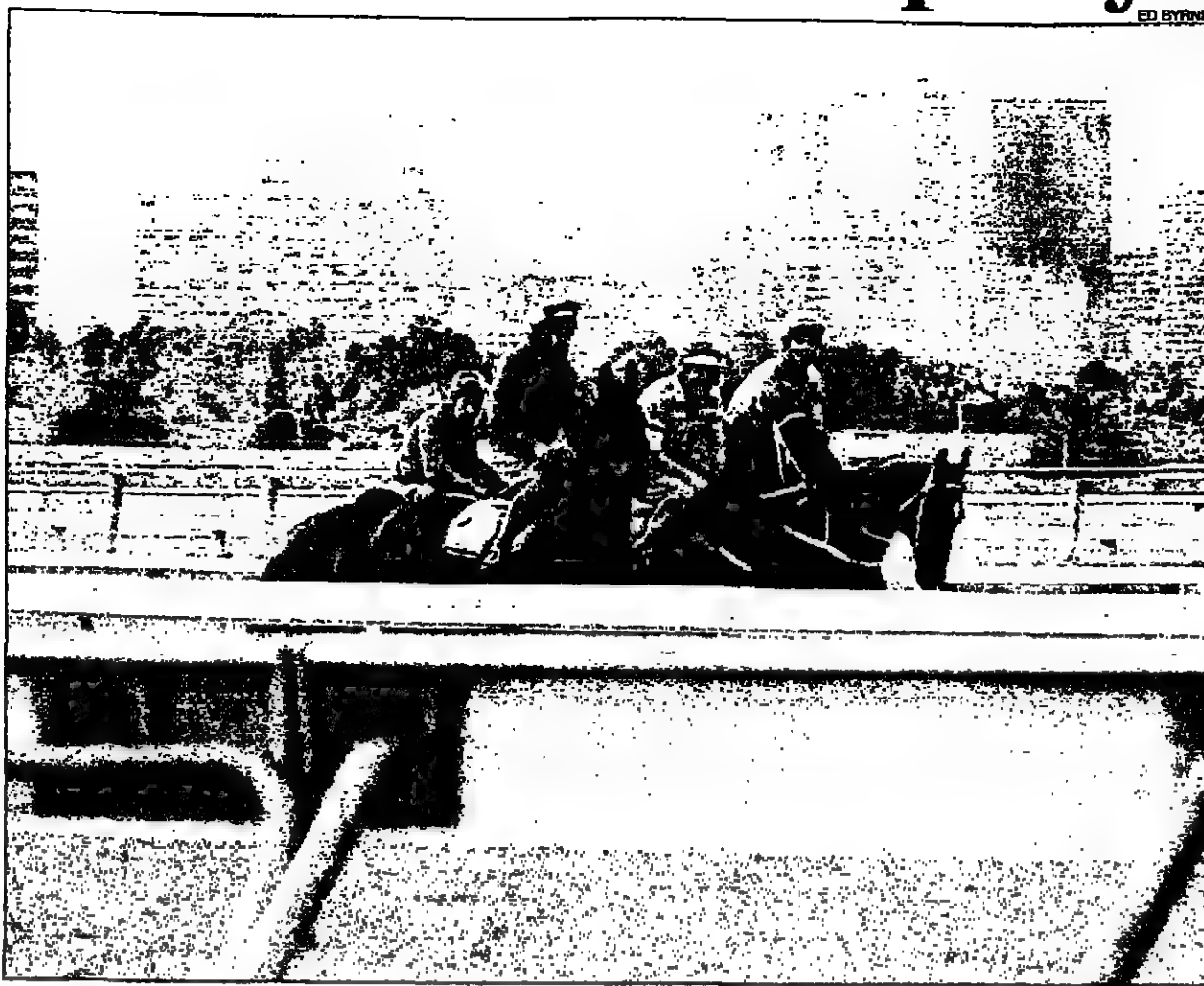
WHEN you are on unfamiliar terrain, nothing eases the anxiety quite like the rhythms of a steady, trusted steed. Mark Johnston would certainly vouchsafe the feeling after spending the morning with Double Trigger here yesterday.

It was a low-key trainer who addressed allcomers within hours of his arrival on Wednesday morning. Then, Johnston had been afforded just 30 minutes with his redoubtable chestnut, the 5-1 favourite for the Melbourne Cup on Tuesday. However, the Middleham handler was distinctly more upbeat yesterday in the wake of Double Trigger's work at Sandown racecourse, on the fringes of this endearing city.

"I was very nervous about the race when I first arrived because the horse didn't look as good as he can," he revealed. "I don't know why, but I felt we had come a long way for nothing."

The notion must have made for a miserable sense of déjà vu: Johnston experienced an identical sentiment 12 months ago, when he arrived to assess the condition of Quick Ransom. He immediately recognised that the arduous journey had extinguished whatever chance Quick Ransom might have entertained.

However, if Double Trigger at first appeared a shade listless, the impression was quick to dissolve. Jason Weaver, the colt's regular rider, raised the tempo when he eased Double Trigger into a strong canter. The gambit offered a sharp contrast to the lengthy conditioning work of



Early-morning workers exercise at Flemington racecourse against a backdrop of Melbourne's city centre

previous days. And Johnston noted all the right signs when the horse concluded his morning's business.

"I'm a lot happier now," he said. "Having his jockey on his back probably focused the horse's mind on the race to come. He did a lot less this

morning but this time he got himself into a bit of a sweat. He was bucking and kicking and biting at everything, which was particularly pleasing to see. Jason was very satisfied."

Johnston's mood of optimism coincided with the arriv-

al here of Mike Dillon, the public relations director of Ladbrokes, who brought with him details of an interesting market move. "We are quoting Double Trigger at 4-1, which is two points shorter than he was after his bad run in the Prix du Cadran," he said. "The major-

ity of that money has come from Australia, which might illustrate the strength — or lack of it — of the home team."

Dillon's observation tallies with the local perception that genuine Australian stayers are thin on the ground. Many seasoned observers believe

their beloved Melbourne Cup is destined for export, but are divided over whether Double Trigger or Vintage Crop, the Dermot Weld-trained winner two years ago, will make off with the prize.

As the big day approaches, a cocktail of excitement and anticipation laces the air. Each major racing event is encased in its own traditions. Yet none is quite as compelling as the "Breakfast With The Stars", an annual gathering where the hordes journey to the racecourse for their free breakfast and champagne.

It was heartwarming to reach Flemington, at 6.30am, to find 6,000 citizens of Melbourne in truly boisterous form. As the spirits soared, so, too, did the urgency rate within the city's offices. Most of the Melbourne Cup's main contenders were galloping in front of the throng but their presence was almost incidental. The occasion was about heralding the imminence of the Melbourne Cup, an event so large in the nation's psyche that words demonstrably fail it.

A handful of cognoscenti were glued to their binoculars. And as the escalators sweep up towards the top of the grandstand, you can marvel at murals portraying chapters of the glorious history to surround this two-mile race. But the majority arrived at Flemington to raise a glass to nothing more than their own existence. It was a celebration of life itself.

How said it to reflect that our own Derby, once accorded a similar niche in the hearts of British people, has proved wholly incapable of sustaining the party spirit.

Reimei strongly supported after Dettori booking

REG AKEHURST, the Epsom trainer renowned for his handicapper successes, triggered another ante-post plunge yesterday. He booked the champion jockey, Frankie Dettori, for Reimei in the Tote Credit November Handicap at Doncaster tomorrow, and the six-year-old's odds were quickly cut by William Hill from 20-1 to 12-1.

The weights are due to rise 21lb in this race with the original top-weights, Capias (16-1), Naked Welcome (14-1) and Better Offer (20-1), all

same price (from 5-1) with Ladbrokes, who then bet 6-1 Whitechapel, 7-1 Dato Star, 10-1 Foundry Lane, Indigo Time, Royal Scimitar, 12-1 Proton, Beauchamp Jade, 14-1 and upwards others.

The Harrow-based firm reported that the early support in the Mackeson Gold Cup, at Cheltenham on Saturday week, has been for Buckboard Bounce (10-1 from 12-1) and Big Matt (12-1 from 16-1). Other prices: 5-1 Coulton, 6-1 Dublin Flyer, 8-1 Egypt Mill Prince, Strong Platinum, 10-1 Bradbury Star, 14-1 Second Schedule, Camitrov, 16-1 bar.

Meanwhile, Gordon Richards is confident he has One Man fighting fit in readiness for the gelding's attempt to win the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup for the second year in a row.

One Man is due to make his comeback in the Sean Graham Motherwell Chase at Ayr tomorrow week before tackling the Newbury handicap on November 25.

The Greystoke trainer said: "One Man is already as straight as he was at this time last year and he will definitely be going to Ayr without the ground in his cement. I want Jedami to run in the Ayr race because he'll give us a good test and will keep the handicap right. We've then got a nice break of two weeks before Newbury."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: TILTY (1.10 Uttoxeter)
Next bet: Ballindoo (2.10 Uttoxeter)

having been removed from the betting lists.

This puts Reimei — originally handicapped at 6st 10lb — in the race at 8st 3lb, the champion's minimum weight. Reimei won two of his six outings last season but has had just one run this year, when dead-heating for third place with Sharp Falcon behind Indigo Time at Ascot last month.

The Lord Huntingdon-trained Snow Princess, who will be ridden by Richard Hills, is the 4-1 favourite (from 9-2) with Hills and the

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Edinburgh

Going: soft
1.40 (5) 1. Queens Check (5) Webster, 1.11.2. 2. Frances Mary (5) 1.1. 3. Amie (5) 1.1. 4. Conchita (5) 1.1. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 841. 842. 843. 844. 845. 846. 847. 848. 849. 850. 851. 852. 853. 854. 855. 856. 857. 858. 859. 860. 861. 862. 863. 864. 865. 866. 867. 868. 869. 870. 871. 872. 873. 874. 875. 876. 877. 878. 879. 880. 881. 882. 883. 884. 885. 886. 887. 888. 889. 890. 891. 892. 893. 894. 895. 896. 897. 898. 899. 900. 901. 902. 903. 904. 905. 906. 907. 908. 909. 910. 911. 912. 913. 914. 915. 916. 917. 918. 919. 920. 921. 922. 923. 924. 925. 926. 927. 928. 929. 930. 931. 932. 933. 934. 935. 936. 937. 938. 939. 940. 941. 942. 943. 944. 945. 946. 947. 948. 949. 950. 951. 952. 953. 954. 955. 956. 957. 958. 959. 960. 961. 962. 963. 964. 965. 966. 967. 968. 969. 970. 971. 972. 973. 974. 975. 976. 977. 978. 979. 980. 981. 982. 983. 984. 985. 986. 987. 988. 989. 990. 991. 992. 993. 994. 995. 996. 997. 998. 999. 1000.

Ingfield Park

Going: heavy
1.30 (1m 10) 1. Elementary (J. Stalk, 11-10) 2. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 841. 842. 843. 844. 845. 846. 847. 848. 849. 850. 851. 852. 853. 854. 855. 856. 857. 858. 859. 860. 861. 862. 863. 864. 865. 866. 867. 868. 869. 870. 871. 872. 873. 874. 875. 876. 877. 878. 879. 880. 881. 882. 883. 884. 885. 886. 887. 888. 889. 890. 891. 892. 893. 894. 895. 896. 897. 898. 899. 900. 901. 902. 903. 904. 905. 906. 907. 908. 909. 910. 911. 912. 913. 914. 915. 916. 917.

Blackburn provide too little too late

By PETER BALL

FOR the first time this season there were two opinions on a Blackburn Rovers performance in the European Cup Champions' League, after the 0-0 draw with Legia Warsaw on Wednesday night. The draw ended their interest in the competition, but Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, took some solace from their display.

Harford felt that it had been their best performance in European competition so far, and some commentators, including the ITV commentary team, apparently agreed with him. Others were less easily impressed.

Harford suggested that his side had held possession better than in previous matches, and "made chances, if not many". Later, however, he also suggested that they had created more chances with a more direct approach against Spartak Moscow, in the first game, and Blackburn's critics wondered whether, on this occasion, such an approach might have paid dividends against a goalkeeper, Szesznyi, who looked vulnerable in the air.

"That keeper is the biggest joke I've seen in years," one leading Premiership manager said yesterday, wondering why Blackburn had not moved Hendry forward for the last time.

Even Harford, however, would admit that an improvement in keeping possession was small consolation in another week that brought the state of the English game into unflattering perspective. The failures of Leeds United and Liverpool, and the earlier exit of Manchester United, form a damning pattern.

However, the Champions' League is the real test of quality, and Blackburn were found badly wanting, even compared with the poor record of English clubs since the return to Europe five years ago. Manchester United at least won two games and drew two more, scoring 11 goals last season. Blackburn have managed one point and one goal from four games, making

their last two fixtures meaningless.

United had to play Barcelona; Blackburn, their inexperience showing, have stumbled against Legia Warsaw and Rosenborg BK. "People said they would be easy to beat," Graeme Le Saux, the Blackburn full back, said afterwards, "but they had pace, skill and great technique, and it was a terrific experience to be on the pitch with them."

Perhaps with Bobbin back to fuel their domestic recovery, Blackburn can learn from that experience and be better prepared next time, but there is a long way to go, as Le Saux recognised.

"I don't think we are any worse than the Europeans in terms of ability, but on a technical level everyone on the Continent has moved on. We're still trying to catch up after the ban on English clubs, and the only way you can do that is by playing in Europe."

Ajax, of Amsterdam, set a record on Wednesday for the longest unbeaten run in the European Cup. By drawing 0-0 in Zurich against Grasshopper in group D, Ajax extended their unbeaten sequence to 15 games, beating the previous best of 14 set by Liverpool in the mid-1980s and the Ajax of Johan Cruyff in the early 1970s.

Ajax, one of only three clubs to have won all three European cup competitions, began their impressive sequence of ten wins and five draws with a 2-0 victory over the then holders, Milan, last season. Ajax last lost in a European competition in March 1994, suffering a 2-0 reverse against Parma in the Cup Winners' Cup.

The Dutch champions are enjoying similar success on the domestic front. They were last beaten in the league 46 games ago, falling 2-1 to Willem II on May 8, 1994.

Ajax went undefeated in the European Cup from April 1971 to March 1973, while Milan hold the record for the longest unbeaten sequence, of 17 matches, in all European competitions.



Juninho gets down to training with his new team-mates after receiving permission to play for Middlesbrough

Juninho cleared to make debut

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

JUNINHO, the Brazilian footballer of the year, finally secured the authorisation to play in England yesterday, triggering a carnival atmosphere at the Middlesbrough training ground.

"We are all delighted his clearance has come through," Bryan Robson, the manager, said. "You could see Juninho was delighted as well when we told him in training."

The midfield player will make his debut against Leeds United tomorrow in front of a capacity 30,000 crowd at the Riverside Stadium. Middlesbrough received international clearance yesterday morning after the necessary papers were relayed to the Football Association from Brazilian football's governing body.

Robson, who had feared facing another weekend without his £4.75million signing

from São Paulo, said: "It means that Juninho can now concentrate on playing football without worrying about anything else."

Juninho's debut will be the reward for five months of hard work by Robson. He first tracked the player during the Umbro Cup in the summer, but the transfer was completed only three weeks ago. Juninho arrived back on Teesside at the weekend after being granted a work permit.

He has trained with the squad for four days — and was involved in a full-scale practice match yesterday morning. Robson has no doubts that Juninho can cope with the stamina-sapping demands of the FA Cup and Premiership.

"I told Juninho to take it steady in training after stepping off the plane," he said. "Today we stepped it up with a full-scale practice match and

he showed up well. I know it is some time since he played in a match, but he has a lot of natural fitness."

Portsmouth have failed to have a two-match ban imposed on their defender, Guy Butters, overturned on appeal. They were confident that the Football Association would wipe out Butters's dismissal in the away match against West Bromwich Albion on October 21, when the former Tottenham Hotspur defender was sent off for two bookable offences. However, after studying a video of the incident which led to the second yellow card — a challenge on Bob Taylor — the FA upheld the decision of Uriah Rennie, the referee, to show the red card.

Terry Fenwick, the Portsmouth manager, said that the video clearly showed that Butters's collision with Taylor was "an accident" and added:

"I can't believe it — there is no way Guy brought Taylor down on purpose."

Fenwick had hoped that the FA would ask Rennie to reconsider his decision after reviewing the incident, but they refused to consult the match official and Butters will miss the trip to Sheffield United on Saturday and the home clash with Huddersfield a week later.

Robert Fleck, the Norwich City striker, has been fined £1,000 and warned about his future conduct after being found guilty of misconduct by the FA. Fleck was punished after an incident during the match with Sheffield United at Bramall Lane on September 9, when he abused an official after being substituted.

In addition to the fine and the warning, the Scot, 30, was ordered to pay the costs of the hearing.

SPORTS LETTERS

Events must match stadium

From Mr Robert Copeman
Sir, I welcome the proposal to create a new national "soccer" stadium so long as we learn from our past mistakes. Wembley has had a very unprofitable past despite long-term and exclusive contracts with the Football Association.

Surely a grass-roots site must be found in London which will not disrupt an ongoing programme at Wembley.

A national "athletics" stadium in Manchester is another matter. Neither the International Amateur Athletic Federation nor the British federation have been very successful at marketing athletics recently, especially for television.

The 1995 IAAF world championships sold US television rights for \$1 million. Most of the events with the same competitors within the 1996 Olympics in the United States have sold for perhaps 100 times more.

Britain may bid for and secure the 2001 world championships, but how likely is a profit and for how many days would even 25 per cent of the stadium's planned 65,000 capacity be filled?

Manchester will never win a summer Olympic Games whatever facilities are in situ. Manchester is in the same television time slot as perhaps 20 other cities (including London) who will always make out a better case.

There will not be sufficient viable projects in British sport to utilise available Lottery funds. There were five candidates to site a national stadium, although there are clearly not (and will not be) sufficient "national" sporting events to justify spending up to £200 million on one.

The chances of Britain stag-

ing the 2008 Olympic Games are not good and the chances of our national stadium still being state of the art in 2002 even less. By all means, let's build a new national stadium, but let's be realistic as to just what events will be held there and who will pay the required subsidies.

Yours very sincerely,
ROBERT C. COPEMAN,
Managing Director,
Centre for Sports Television,
Controllable Environments & Machinery,
PO Box 174,
Birmingham 5.

From Mr D. Evans
Sir, The last few years have seen a burst of activity in the building of new sports stadiums. Twickenham has set the trend for what can only be described as horrendous visual structures, which are being copied up and down the land.

Where is the influence of imaginative and sensitive architects: where is the control which should be exercised by the planning departments of the local authorities? Nobody seems to care, not the Royal Institute of British Architects, not the clients, not even the Prince of Wales.

Is this the heritage which we are passing on to mark the end of the 20th century? There are examples of wonderful sports venues around the world which delight the eye. Overseas visitors to Twickenham will be appalled if they ever visit that shrine of rugby and see the reality of a debased design, which looks like an erection of temporary scaffolding.

Yours etc.,
D. EVANS,
16 Laytons Lane,
Sunderby on Thames,
Middlesex.

Lack of diplomacy

From Mr Edward Footring

Sir, In agreeing wholeheartedly with Simon Barnes ("Malcolm menaced by meddlers", November 1) I was hoping to see some reference to Raymond Illingworth who, having spent part of last year doing his best — to undermine the England captain, has now turned his attention to Devon Malcolm.

The mind boggles at the thought of a chairman of selectors who, having chosen Malcolm as a member of a touring party, and one of only four strike bowlers, decides, after the tour commences, to remodel his bowling action.

Illingworth — aided by Peter Lever, who I cannot recall as being the greatest bowler of his day — continues to be superb at public relations.

Of all the members of the touring party Malcolm is the icon and role model for the thousands of black youngsters up and down South Africa who dream of playing cricket for their country one day. And Illingworth publicly sends him back to school — with an undiplomatic teacher.

What a way to run a Test team.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD FOOTRING,
6 Nottingham Terrace,
York Terrace West,
Regent's Park, NW1.

of the game's weaknesses? Nothing is perfect.

But the rugby league World Cup did produce encounters to stir even the most fossilised of blood. He can't have been at either semi-final, both of which contained all that is fine, skilful and exhilarating about our code, nor at Swansea for Wales v Western Samoa, a game that fizzed with fire, passion and commitment.

Yours etc.,
COLIN WELLAND,
c/o Peter Fraser & Dunlop,
5th Floor,
The Chamber,
Chelsea Harbour, SW10.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-762 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
Dealer East Game all IMPs

♠ A3	♥ 74
♦ J72	♣ 108674
♠ 10865	♥ 74
♦ 1085	♣ A86
♠ K5	♥ 74
♦ K2	♣ 10864

Contract: 3 NT by South

Lead: Jack of Spades

North opened a weak Two Diamonds after three passes. In fourth seat that is constructive, so South bid a pushy 3 NT.

Brian Senior, my partner, led the jack of spades, won by the declarer with the king, with me (East) playing the seven to show two or four. Declarer played a diamond to West's king and West played the six of spades to dummy's ace. Declarer played the queen of diamonds, which held, and another diamond on which South and West discarded the eight and two of spades, respectively. What should East do now?

It is apparent that declarer has four tricks in diamonds and three in spades (he is marked with the queen from the play to the first trick). If he has the king of hearts, he is going to make the contract unless East attacks clubs. On the other hand, if South has the king of clubs, East has to play his partner for K Q x x of hearts. Which is it to be?

The clue is West's discard of

the two of spades. If he had had K Q x x of hearts, he would have discarded the ten of spades, a suit-preference signal for the higher-ranking suit. Hence, I had to play Senior for the king of clubs. I returned the ten of clubs, (if I lead low, declarer will play low and later make a trick with the jack.)

Declarer played the jack, covered by the king and ace. Now, after he had cashed the diamonds, I won the ace of hearts, and took two club tricks to beat the contract.

Declarer does better to play low from hand on the ten of clubs and win in dummy. Then, after running the diamonds, he comes down to the queen of spades, K x in hearts and the jack of clubs. West then has to discard his king of clubs on the last diamond to enable East to run his clubs. No problem for Senior.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

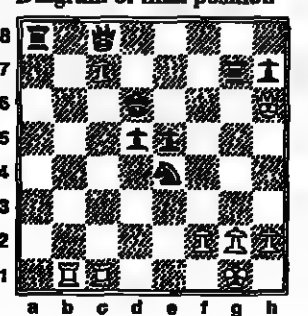
Short shines
With a slashing attack in the final round of the PCA Classic at Horgen, Switzerland, Nigel Short has achieved his best tournament result for years. Short finished in a tie for third, behind Vassily Ivanchuk and Vladimir Kramnik but a point ahead of Garry Kasparov, the world champion.

White: Nigel Short
Black: Boris Gulko
Horgen, November 1995

Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4	c5
2 Nf3	d5
3 e5	c5
4 d4	Nc6
5 c3	Bf5
6 dxc5	e5
7 b4	exd4
8 Qxb4	O-O
9 Bb5	Bxb1
10 Bxb1	Ox5+
11 Bb5	Ox7
12 Bb3	Ox7
13 O-O	Bx7
14 Bxb5	cx5
15 b5	cx5
16 Nxb5	Ox5
17 Nd4	Ox5
18 Qb3	Nf5
19 Qb5+	Kf8

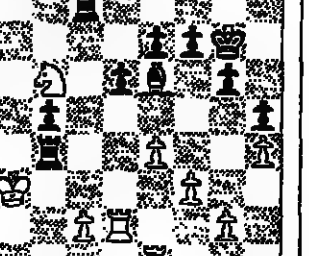
Diagram of final position



WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Anand — Kasparov, Intel world championship, eleventh game, 1995. This position shows Anand falling for a clever trap. Black seems to be in trouble as both of his rooks are attacked. How did Kasparov, Black to play, demonstrate convincingly that this is not the case?



Solution on page 46

Gould drops Hughes for Albania match

MARK HUGHES and Ian Rush have been left out of the Wales team to play Albania in Tirana on November 15 in their final European championship group seven qualifying match.

Bobby Gould, the manager, has decided to start the game with the 11 players who began the 2-1 defeat by Germany in Cardiff last month, and although Rush will travel with the party, Hughes has turned down the chance.

"I have explained everything to Mark and other senior players such as Ian Rush and David Phillips, and

there is no confrontation of any kind whatsoever," Gould said.

Gould emphatically dismissed a suggestion that Hughes's international career could now be finished. "There is no way that Mark's international career is over. There is competition and that is healthy, but Mark will never be ruled out of consideration for any side I select."

Wales: N Southall (Everton), A Mewell (Sunderland), K Symon (Manchester City), S Jenkins (Swansea City), M Bowen (Norwich City), G Speed (Leeds United), B Home (Everton), M Pemberton (Sheffield Wednesday), D Saunders (Galatasaray), R Gigg (Manchester United), N Blake (Sheffield United)

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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BELISARIUS EVENTS

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HODEN

- a. A winter cloak
- b. A rustic dance
- c. A wooden horse

NEUE SACHLICHKEIT

- a. A Viennese tart
- b. Artistic realism
- c. An open air macho movement

HOAGIE

- a. A long sandwich
- b. A redneck xenophobe
- c. A wild boar

KARAKIA

- a. An incantation
- b. Ritual shell exchange
- c. An orange climbing shrub

Answers on page 46

Finding sporting excellence in land of the midday moon

We were flown over for the big match on Sunday: a nicely balanced team you would have called us, incorporating youth and age, men and women, clubmen from the United States, Great Britain and Germany.

Their Foreign Office acted as our hosts, accommodated, fed and watered us, minibused us across the city thrashing briefing papers into our hands and paraded for our delectation the great and the good, who gave addresses from podiums equipped with machinery for slide and tape, after our reward of a seat at the Cup final.

I will not insult you by giving too many details of Sunday's contest: the team from the west had the more fervent supporters, the team from the north the greater talent, so it was a 1-1 draw

which was less than compulsive to watch.

The replay next Sunday, once more at the Ullevål Stadium in Oslo, kicks off at 1.15pm and, if I could have a bet, I would take Rosenborg BK from Trondheim, to beat Brann from Bergen, 5-0. Distance-wise it is like Trum playing Carlisle at Wembley two weeks running, for which only the rash would predict a second 29,000 sell-out... but this is Norway. It was the aim of our hosts to tell us the contention that Norway is different and the state of Norwegianness something that is worth investigating. The total seriousness with which the people of Oslo take karate is a point in fact: the ease with which Rosenborg beat Blackburn Rovers in the Champions' League this season shows the seriousness of their purpose.

After the match, we dined on pâté of reindeer and garlic, fish and good wine, though no spirits, because you cannot buy spirits on a Sunday in a land of the midday moon.

Monday morning saw our brave band of travellers greeted by Arne Myhrvold in a building adjacent to the sports university. Myhrvold is president both of the national Olympic committee and the Norwegian Confederation of Sport: an important man and one with innovative ideas.

His topic, "The Norwegian model for the development of elite sport", by which they mean a carefully evolved system of coach/player co-operation, is a far cry from our practice of having the former shout at the latter — who then goes on strike for more money. The Norwegian system involves philosophy and advances



FREUD ON FRIDAY

mens sana in corpore sano to supporting the athlete in his home life, his studies, his personal life, and his plans for a future after athletics.

The Norwegians have a squad of some 120 Olympic probables who receive a stipend of £6,000 a year of lottery money and govern-

ment grants to minimise financial problems and enable concentration on training and winning. There is much cross-germination: a successful cross-country skier explains the philosophy of success to a high hurdler; judo and karate champions teach balance and speed of reaction to keepers (goalkeepers at hockey, ice hockey, football and handball).

There is a lecture from a failed tycoon on coping with adversity and a music virtuoso on the realisation of success.

The Elite Sport Venture, started in 1984, is called "Project 88" ("we did not look at results for four years"), and it has nearly doubled the number of medals won in Olympic, world, and European championships in seven years, via the basic and fundamental philosophy geared towards the common goal of winning and the realisa-

tion that the athlete is a human being of intellectual, social and psychological capacity with whom to work. If only Eddie The Eagle had looked to Norway.

For lunch, we have sussed herrings, not very cold fruit juice, excellent bread and cold cuts of meat in the refectory. We move on to the Norwegian Football Association offices situated within the stadium. "Drillo" (the word means "the dribbler") is Norway's Venables, though he has different problems. We learn about his philosophy: "Our aim is to win, not to entertain. One-nil is better than 5-4." We want to take him up on this, but he does not hang around for questions.

Stadiums are turfed by a mixture of real and artificial grass with under-pitch heating. Full-sized covered halls are being built

all over this huge country. There are junior leagues in six regions: under-ten, under-12, under-14, under-16, boys and girls. Eighty per cent of boys play football at the age of nine. There are 50,000 girls' clubs. Most club teams have subsidiary XIs for the physically handicapped and the socially disturbed, playing in their strip.

"Could we do this in England?" asks a colleague. He is told that this would be hard to achieve in a land that has a large population.

How many Norwegians are there?

Four and a half million, says the FA official: it has been said four and half million consultants. Of these, 30 per cent spend winter weekends on their skis and, in my 48-hour stay, I saw none who were overweight. The Norwegians have a lot going for them when it comes to sporting achievement.

Smith and Jones offer glimpse of brighter future

By STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THEY are a rum lot, the trio who joined Clare Wood, the No 1 seed, in the last four of the national championships. They include a 35-year-old who has retired, a 23-year-old who gave up the game in 1992 and a 17-year-old novice. What does that say about domestic women's tennis?

The progress of Jo Durie, Samantha Smith and Amanda Jones, the respective semi-finalists, might be seen as a detrimental reflection. They are, in turn, relatively aged, rusty and raw. There are, nevertheless, positive aspects, especially concerning the younger pair.

Smith is the most elegant of the British women and is destined soon to be officially the best. She would already have attained that status had she not spent the past three years at Exeter University studying political history, a subject which she admits will be of no practical use.

Disenchanted with the lack of stimulation off court, she left the professional circuit when she was on the verge of breaking into the top 100 in the world. Loaded with natural talent, she confessed that she was mentally "brittle, all over the place".

She played recreationally at Exeter, though while she was there she beat the woman ranked No 70 in the world at the World Student Games and realised that she was in love with the game that she had rejected. Her renaissance began three months ago dur-

ing county week at Eastbourne. Yet to drop a set at Telford, yesterday she defeated Lizzie Jeffs, the contrastingly stiff and laboured No 2 seed. Playing in fits and starts but always with effortless grace, Smith four times took three games in a row to go through 6-2, 7-5 and will next meet Durie.

The pair faced each other at the same stage four years ago when, Smith recalls, a net cord cost her the opening set. She went on to lose but should win today as long as she is not inhibited by nerves. Durie has none. She is competing just for fun.

Seven times the champion,

Results 46

she is more than a decade past her best and is trundling around on knees that can barely carry her. Since Wimbledon, when she ended her career, she has played only in the qualifying competition at Brighton last month.

"I'm not getting myself in a knot as I used to," she explained after knocking out Amanda Wainwright 6-2, 6-3 in little more than an hour. "It doesn't matter whether I win or lose but, I can assure you, there is no way I'm playing any more after this." Her swansong beckons.

Durie believes that Jones, the long-legged daughter of the former Wimbledon runner-up, has a game for the

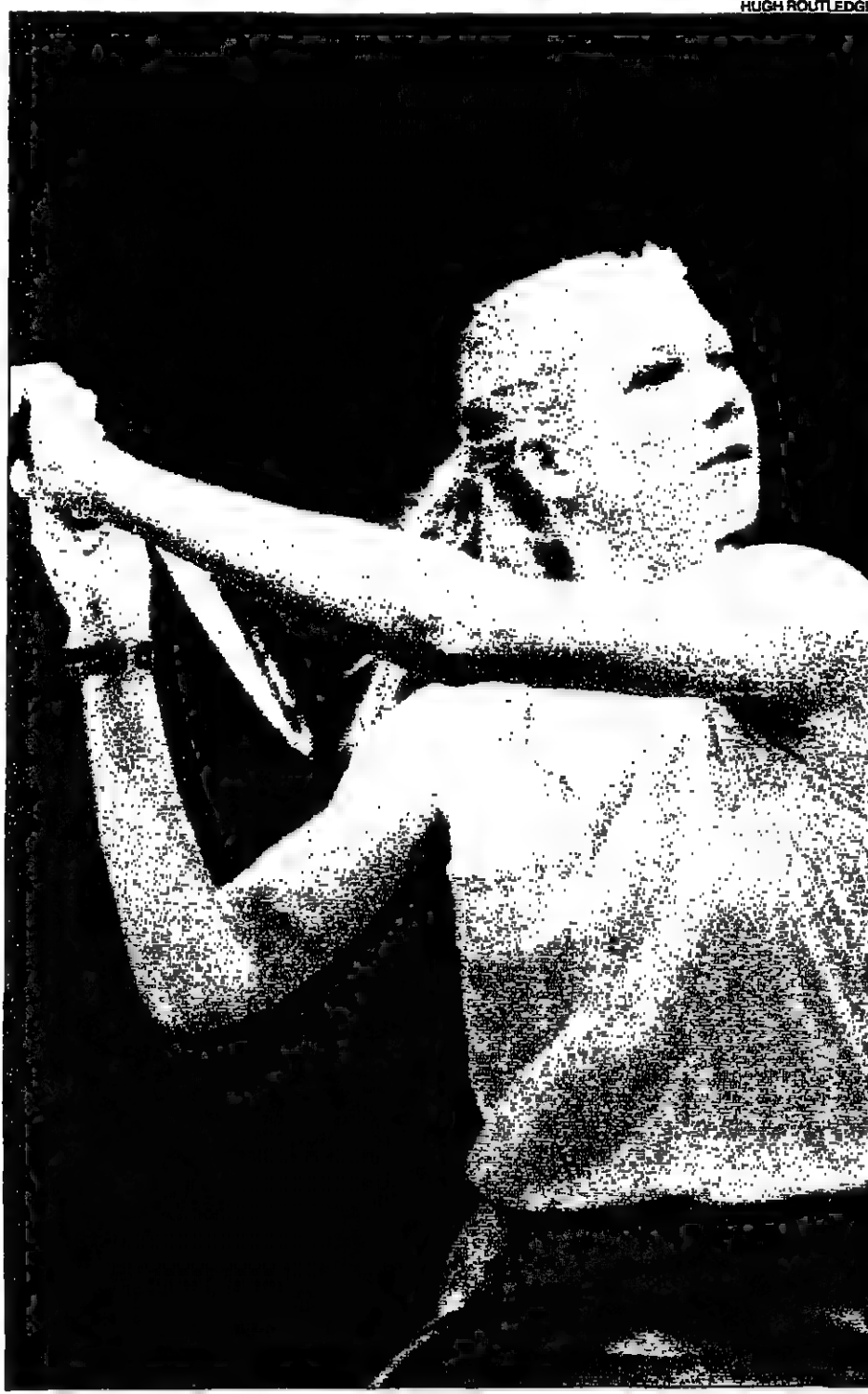
future. It also belongs in the past. Rather than following the predominant pattern nowadays, along the baseline, she frequently visits the place she calls "home", the net.

"I like to go to the net and volley," she said. "Most girls are baseliners, but I break up their rhythm by going in all the time."

Durie said: "Because she has something different, that will help her. It puts opponents off." Jones, a qualifier, has yet to drop a set in six matches and had evidently not planned to blemish Karen Cross, the No 3 seed. After winning 6-3, 7-5, she had to check back into her hotel.

Even if she succumbs to Wood, who eliminated Jasmine Choudhury, another talented 17-year-old, Jones will have spent a highly profitable week. She is already guaranteed to earn £2,200 in prize-money — by far and away her biggest pay packet, and a sum that will go towards buying a car. She takes her driving test in a fortnight.

The men continue to tread a more predictable path. Tim Henman, the No 3 seed, was the only winner to be taken to a third set. He beat Andrew Richardson, whose service is as big as his frame. He stands 6ft 7in. The line-up in the quarter-finals today is Greg Rusedski v Luke Milligan, Mark Petchey v Colin Beecher, Jamie Delgado v Henman and Barry Cowan v Jeremy Bates.



Jones on the way to a 6-3, 7-5 quarter-final defeat of Cross at Telford yesterday

Scotland offering big incentive to stay in vanguard

By MARK SOUSTER

THE Scotland international rugby union squad has been offered lucrative five-month contracts worth up to £22,500 per player. The deal, the small print of which is still being discussed, could be signed within the next week, and covers the international against Western Samoa later this month and the five nations' championship in 1996.

If Scotland beat the Samoans, who arrived in Edinburgh yesterday, and win the grand slam, the cost to the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) could exceed £400,000.

The squad is considering the offer of retainers individually worth £5,000. On top of that, all 21 players featuring in an international — the team plus six replacements — will receive £2,000, and those who actually play will be paid £1,500 if Scotland win an international, and £750 if they lose. The minimum a leading player could expect is £18,750, rising to a maximum of £22,500, before tax. However, the position of players in the armed forces or the police regarding dual contracts of employment has yet to be finalised.

By any standards, that is a significant incentive for the squad, and a substantial investment by the SRU, one which proves that the union is serious in ensuring its players cannot consider themselves the poor relations of the international game. It may also prevent players from moving to England in search of greater financial reward. The SRU had wanted to insert a clause in contracts stipulating that those tied to the union had to

play their domestic rugby in Scotland, but it is understood that has been ruled out on legal grounds.

In return, the players, who will be employees of the SRU, will be expected to undertake considerable marketing and promotional activities. It is also believed that players will be prevented from writing newspaper columns, although existing agreements can be honoured. To finance such a huge commitment, the SRU is reviewing its whole commercial operation, to explore other sources of income.

The players, through Rob Wainwright and Craig Chalmers, their representatives, and Ian McLauchlan, their agent, have been negotiating with the SRU for several months. Discussions have been cordial and ultimately seem likely to be mutually productive.

Gary Armstrong, missing from the international scene for more than a year because of a serious knee injury, has been recalled to captain Scotland A against Western Samoa at Hawick on November 12. The Jed-Forest and British Isles scrum half, who has signed registration forms for Newcastle, leads a side containing six newcomers at this level — Lang, Welsh, Ellis, Elliot, Renwick and Amos.

SCOTLAND A: S D Lang (Hawick's FPI), S A Nichol (Glasgow), I C Jardine (Glasgow), D A Smith (Boroughmuir), W B Welsh (Hawick), G Armstrong (Jed-Forest), captain, A V Sharp (Bristol), D G Ellis (Glasgow), P Burrell (London Scottish), E W Peters (Bath), J Elliot (Hawick), S J Campbell (Durham), S J Parnell (London Scottish), S L Hammett (Hawick), replacements: S R Duff (Inverclyde), B A S Edmondson (London Scottish), A D Nicol (Bath), D G Burns (Boroughmuir), S W Paul (Hawick's FPI), S Scott (Hawick).

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

GRIVEY, EVELYN ANNE (nee GRIVEY, widow, late of 10, Weymouth, Norfolk, died there on 14th July 1995, aged 82 years. The funeral will be held at 11.00am on 10th November 1995 at St. Andrew's Church, Weymouth. The Rev. Canon J. H. G. Jones, 118 Essex Square, London, E1 2RN, will officiate. Family and friends are welcome. By Order of the Board, David Hetherington, Secretary.

LEGAL NOTICES

DEALON LIMITED (INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company, in accordance with the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at 10.30am on Thursday 9 November 1995 at 10, 11 and 12, Broad Street, London W1P 8LP, for the purpose of receiving a statement of affairs from the Liquidator and for the purpose of appointing a Liquidator. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and who wish to attend or be represented at it should ring 0171 599 3000 extension 4295 to obtain the necessary form.

FITZPATRICK LIMITED (AN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company, in accordance with the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at 10.30am on Thursday 9 November 1995 at 10, 11 and 12, Broad Street, London W1P 8LP, for the purpose of receiving a statement of affairs from the Liquidator and for the purpose of appointing a Liquidator. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and who wish to attend or be represented at it should ring 0171 599 3000 extension 4295 to obtain the necessary form.

LEGAL NOTICES

ARCHITECTURAL PRESS COMPANY LIMITED (INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company, in accordance with the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at 10.30am on Thursday 9 November 1995 at 10, 11 and 12, Broad Street, London W1P 8LP, for the purpose of receiving a statement of affairs from the Liquidator and for the purpose of appointing a Liquidator. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and who wish to attend or be represented at it should ring 0171 599 3000 extension 4295 to obtain the necessary form.

INSOLVENCY RULES 1986 BELLS BREAKDOWN SERVICE LTD (IN CREDITORS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company, in accordance with the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at 10.30am on Thursday 9 November 1995 at 10, 11 and 12, Broad Street, London W1P 8LP, for the purpose of receiving a statement of affairs from the Liquidator and for the purpose of appointing a Liquidator. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and who wish to attend or be represented at it should ring 0171 599 3000 extension 4295 to obtain the necessary form.

ICP LIMITED (COMPANY NUMBER 048877) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company, in accordance with the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at 10.30am on Thursday 9 November 1995 at 10, 11 and 12, Broad Street, London W1P 8LP, for the purpose of receiving a statement of affairs from the Liquidator and for the purpose of appointing a Liquidator. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and who wish to attend or be represented at it should ring 0171 599 3000 extension 4295 to obtain the necessary form.

MULTON LIMITED (COMPANY NUMBER 731013) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company, in accordance with the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at 10.30am on Thursday 9 November 1995 at 10, 11 and 12, Broad Street, London W1P 8LP, for the purpose of receiving a statement of affairs from the Liquidator and for the purpose of appointing a Liquidator. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and who wish to attend or be represented at it should ring 0171 599 3000 extension 4295 to obtain the necessary form.

UNITED TRADE PRESS GROUP LIMITED (COMPANY NUMBER 190887) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company, in accordance with the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at 10.30am on Thursday 9 November 1995 at 10, 11 and 12, Broad Street, London W1P 8LP, for the purpose of receiving a statement of affairs from the Liquidator and for the purpose of appointing a Liquidator. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and who wish to attend or be represented at it should ring 0171 599 3000 extension 4295 to obtain the necessary form.

NEW PUBLISHERS LIMITED (COMPANY NUMBER 1128560) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company, in accordance with the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at 10.30am on Thursday 9 November 1995 at 10, 11 and 12, Broad Street, London W1P 8LP, for the purpose of receiving a statement of affairs from the Liquidator and for the purpose of appointing a Liquidator. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and who wish to attend or be represented at it should ring 0171 599 3000 extension 4295 to obtain the necessary form.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE ACT 1925 that any person claiming a claim against or an interest in the TRUSTEES of any of the estates of the deceased persons named below is required to send particulars in writing of the claim or interest to the person or persons named below in relation to the deceased person concerned before 28th AUGUST 1995, after which date the estate of the deceased shall be distributed by the personal representatives thereof who are entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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Ambrose back for another season

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

CURTLY AMBROSE, the West Indian fast bowler, has agreed a new one-year contract as Northamptonshire's overseas player for next summer. Ambrose, 32, returns to Wantage Road for a sixth season after being replaced by Anil Kumble last summer while he toured England with West Indies.

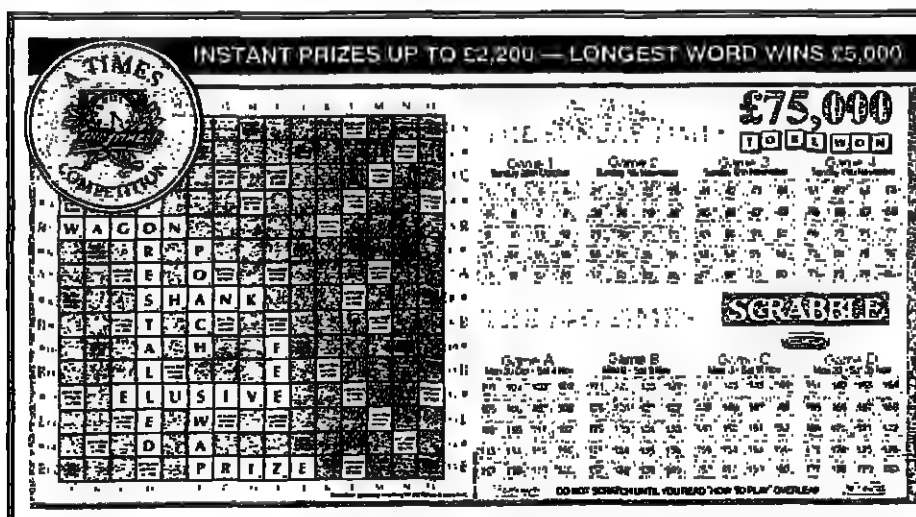
Kumble, who claimed 105 wickets in his debut championship season, will be on duty with India next year but is being strongly tipped to return to Northamptonshire for the 1997 campaign.

"Most people still regard Curtly as being at the top of the international tree," Steve Coverdale, the Northamptonshire chief executive, said.

Ken Barnett, the former England batsman, looks likely to play out his career with Derbyshire after announcing yesterday that he would be staying with the county. He gave up the captaincy at the end of last season.

Roger Twose, the former Warwickshire batsman, hit his first century for his adopted county yesterday as the New Zealanders raced to 367 for three on the opening day of their three-day match against Indian Colts in Hyderabad. He retired after scoring 119.

Selim Malik, the former captain of Pakistan, ended his eight-month exile yesterday and joined his team-mates in their tour match against South Australia. Malik, cleared after three Australia Test players accused him of offering bribes, spent the day in the field as the home side built a first-innings total of 282 for four.



Play £75,000 Scrabble

For the next four weeks, you can play our new £75,000 Scrabble game using the numbers printed in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

The *Times* Scrabble scratchcard has four games on it, one for each week until November 25. Numbers will be printed in *The Times* everyday. Printed below is the fifth set of numbers to play Game A in *The Times* only. More numbers will appear tomorrow.

There is a £5,000 jackpot to be won every week when you play our Longest Word game, FORESTALLED, by using letters you reveal from *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

There are two ways to play for prizes. 1. Printed below are two numbers which you should scratch off on *The Times* Game A grid on your Scrabble gamecard today. Do not scratch any other numbers. By scratching the numbers you will reveal two letters. Using only the letters revealed on Game A, see if you can match any words on the Scrabble board. Each letter you have revealed can only be used once. If you can match a word on the board, you have won a prize and must make a claim today.

2. LONGEST WORD GAME. You can use any combination of the letters revealed this week on *The Sunday Times* Game 1 and *The Times* Game A to make the word FORESTALLED. If you succeed, ring the Scrabble hotline to make a claim for this week's £5,000 prize. If more than one valid claim is made for a prize, the money will be shared equally among the claimants. If you did not receive a gamecard call 0171-867 0404, between 9.30am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. PRIZE WINNERS SO FAR THIS WEEK The £5,000 prize (FORESTALLED) was shared by: Ms J Duggis, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Mr S Langman, Wimbledon, London, and Mr M Glasgow, Edinburgh. The £2,200 prize (PRIZE) was shared by: Mr A Milington, Reading, Berks, Mr J Taylor, Epsom, Surrey, and Mr R Dennis, Colchester, Essex. The £275 prize (FEZ) was shared by: Mr M Caldwell, Barnet, Herts, Ms O Lew, Edinburgh, Mrs T Hook, Chalkton, Surrey, Mrs S Ware, Hazelmore, Surrey and Mrs C Fowler, New Market, Suffolk.

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THESE ARE THE NUMBERS TO SCRATCH OFF GAME A ON YOUR TIMES CARD

113 102

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE

If you reveal all the letters of any word from Game A of your Scrabble gamecard, claim your prize by calling the Scrabble hotline on 0171-867 0404 today, between 9.30am and 5pm. Have your gamecard with you when you claim. Late claims will not be accepted.

SPARE'S GAMES

Molly and the major end a major flirtation

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Goodness, what an emotional week it is turning out to be. No sooner have we bade a tearful farewell to Elizabeth and Darcy, than it's time to say our goodbyes to the participants in television's other great romance of recent weeks, Molly Dineen and Major Crispin Black.

Of course, they'll deny everything. Just two people getting on with their jobs, they'll say. She a distinguished documentary maker, he a senior officer in the Welsh Guards. But after three weeks of *In the Company of Men* (BBC2), we know better.

A more honest woman would have called her film *In the Company of One Man*. True, Dineen would go off and interview some disillusioned squaddie from time to time (join the Army and see the world, join the Guards and clean it) or one of those charming officers ("it's all about alpha males and gamma males") but, as last

night's concluding instalment made clear, deep down she had cameras for only one man — the dashing Major Black.

Their flirtation was exquisite. He would bow authoritatively on any number of subjects — the importance of discipline, the role of women — while her contributions from behind the camera were becoming *sotto voce*, modestly confined to prompting her eloquent amour to say still more.

Last night the gallant major needed no second bidding, pulling out all the stops in his efforts to impress. He forswore other women as they gawped most immediately (the other women, that is) in the officers' mess; he casually revealed he was on chatting terms with the Prince of Wales and, most significantly of all, he introduced Dineen to his mother.

His mother, of course, did what all mothers do to sons in such circumstances; she embarrassed

him. Crispin might have been an actor, she confided, but he does like an ordered life. Not a bit like his brother, Tarquin, apparently — who presumably has a full-time job appearing in Jilly Cooper novels.

Only once did Black stray on to dangerous ground, when he turned his heavy weapons on Dineen's employer, the BBC. "John Birt wouldn't hack it as a platoon commander in my company. I'd sack him." There was the sound of swarming behind the camera, followed by a feeble "Why's that?" "I suspect he's a man who's trying to do things to an institution, which for whatever reason, that institution does not want to happen." The subtext was obvious. Dearest, loveliest Molly, let me rescue you from all that.

Whether one word from her silenced him on the subject for ever we sadly never found out, because

No kissing, of course, in Taggart (ITV). "Fancy a takeaway?" asked DI Jardine (James Macpherson). "No, I fancy my bed," replied DS Reid (Blythe Duff), the only police officer in Glasgow to wear kilted heels. Inevitably, neither got either, because, in the best traditions of police dramas, the phone rang. An ageing pop star had been electrocuted in his swimming pool and his girlfriend stabbed and dumped in the Jacuzzi.

Now, I may be suffering from overexposure to *Crackpot* but my initial reaction to that storyline was a slight smile. And, with the exception of a gratuitously graphic beating-up scene, the smile remained for most of this opening episode of a three-part story. Definitely un-Taggartian and definitely a bit worrying.

For while I have no doubt that Macpherson and Duff can carry Taggart without Mark McManus, they will have trouble if they are

given scripts that stray too far from the underlying darkness of old Barry Appleton's script strayed pretty dangerously: the only underlying thing about it was its basic silliness — a lot of old pop stars apparently bumping each other off. More Bergerac's line. I would have thought.

The rapidly rising number of dead were all members of a group called the Adders.

"We're talking Scottish folklore here," said DC Fraser (Colin McCredie), a young man who is understandably having trouble taking the thing seriously. Something of a music buff himself, Fraser later revealed to a packed briefing room that it was the group's 25th anniversary (of what we weren't told) and that a released single had just entered the charts at number 49. "It might be a piece of useless information, but I thought I'd just mention it." All

quite enjoyable, just not very Taggart.

All quite enjoyable, just very long, is increasingly the best description of *Jake's Progress* (Channel 4) where there are growing signs that Alan Bleasdale, its writer, has been royally indulged. There is no denying the scale of its ambition or the calibre of the performances that Robin LeFevre, the director, has served up from Robert Lindsay, Julie Walters and Barclay Wright. But really, there is a limit to how much of our lives we can dedicate to Master Diadoni and his unhappy parents. Last night we reached hour six — there are still three more to go.

"Tell me why you deserve our love, our time, our attention," screamed someone at the terminally antisocial Jake last night. I think it was his mother, but it could easily have been me.

Lynne Truss is on holiday

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (16118)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (94008951)
9.10 Kilroy (s) (4648319)
10.00 News (Ceefax) (5095970) 10.05 Housemates. Quiz (s) (8837113)
10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick With Faith Brown (s) (4908065)
12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (9090222) 12.05pm Big Brother. With Marge Clarke and Un Geller (s) (4156970)
12.50 Regional News (Ceefax) (23863222)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (22244)
1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (92263609)
1.50 Columbo: Publish or Perish (r) (Ceefax) (3165154) 3.05 Incognito (s) (1494135)
3.30 Orville and Cuddles (r) (6385845) 3.35 Robinson Crusoe (Ceefax) (s) (561135) 4.00 The Itchy Bit (s) (8607203) 4.20 Julia Jelvy and Harriet Hyde (Ceefax) (s) (2783715) 4.35 Record Breakers (Ceefax) (s) (1256608)
5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (8278715)
5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (8984116)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (262932)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) (61)
6.30 Regional news magazines (13)
7.00 Wipeout. Game show (Ceefax) (s) (5338)
7.30 Tomorrow's World. Howard Stablesford reports on a new Japanese car treatment; James Younger tries out a new helmet for American footballers which incorporates an airbag. (Ceefax) (s) (15)
8.00 999 Lifesaver. Michael Buerk and Juliet Morris present a special programme on the dangers of Bontire Night and how to avoid them (Ceefax) (s) (5066)
8.30 A Question of Sport. Bill Beaumont and Ian Roberts compete in teams answering questions put by David Coleman (s) (4598)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1241)
9.30 Dangerfield. Police surgeon/GP drama. (Ceefax) (s) (786222)



Richard Gere and Debra Winger (10.20pm)

- 10.20 FILM: *An Officer and a Gentleman* (1982) with Richard Gere, Louis Gossett Jr, Debra Winger. A group of navy officers on a training exercise are selected for a language and explicit sex. Directed by Taylor Hackford (Ceefax) (488241)
Wales: The Way It Is (1983/90) 10.50 FILM: *An Officer and a Gentleman* (1982) 10.50am FILM: *The Navigator* (1976/82) 2.20 News headlines and weather (780252)
12.20am FILM: *The Navigator* (1988, colour and b/w) with Bruce Lyons. During the last of a mining community in Cumberland, the Black Death. When a boy has a dream of salvation, the villagers set out on a fantastic journey, digging through the Earth in a race against and across time. Directed by Vincent Ward (s) (6761365)
1.30am Weather (9221922)

- VARIATIONS**
- ANGLIA**
As London except: 12.55 Coronation Street (9004851) 1.25 Home and Away (4028749) 1.55 A Country Practice (9004851) 2.20-2.30 Murder, She Wrote (9004851) 2.30-2.40 Shortland Street (7026969) 3.00-3.10 Anglia News (7030181) 3.10-3.20 The James White Show (7030181) 3.20-3.30 The Local (988330) 3.30-3.40 Blood Ties (2218151) 3.40-3.50 Nasty Mothers (9004851) 4.00-4.10 The Album (9131617) 5.00 Crime, Cinema, Cinema (13100)

- CENTRAL**
As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (9004851) 2.20-2.30 Murder, She Wrote (9004851) 2.30-2.40 Shortland Street (7026969) 3.00-3.10 Anglia News (7030181) 3.10-3.20 The James White Show (7030181) 3.20-3.30 The Local (988330) 3.30-3.40 Blood Ties (2218151) 3.40-3.50 Nasty Mothers (9004851) 4.00-4.10 The Album (9131617) 5.00 Crime, Cinema, Cinema (13100)

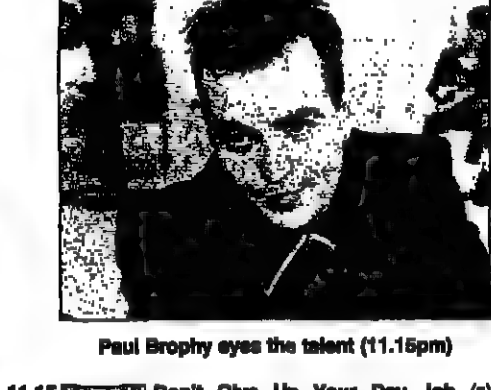
- GRANADA**
As London except: 12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (9004851) 1.25 Home and Away (4028749) 1.55 Blue Heaters (9041135) 2.20-2.30 Growing Pains (2561135) 3.10-3.20 Murder, She Wrote (9004851) 3.20-3.30 Anglia News (7030181) 3.30-3.40 Blood Ties (2218151) 3.40-3.50 Nasty Mothers (9004851) 4.00-4.10 The Album (9131617) 5.00 Crime, Cinema, Cinema (13100)

- HTV WEST**
As London except: 12.55 Shortland Street (9004851) 1.25 Home and Away (4028749) 1.55 Blue Heaters (9041135) 2.20-2.30 Growing Pains (2561135) 3.10-3.20 Murder, She Wrote (9004851) 3.20-3.30 Anglia News (7030181) 3.30-3.40 Blood Ties (2218151) 3.40-3.50 Nasty Mothers (9004851) 4.00-4.10 The Album (9131617) 5.00 Crime, Cinema, Cinema (13100)

- HTV WALES**
As HTV WEST except: 6.30-7.00 Wales Tonight (89) 10.30-10.45 Wales Tonight and Weather (42481)

- MERIDIAN**
As London except: 12.55 Coronation Street (9004851) 1.25 Home and Away (4028749) 1.55 A Country Practice (9004851) 2.20-2.30 Murder, She Wrote (9004851) 2.30-2.40 Shortland Street (7026969) 3.00-3.10 Anglia News (7030181) 3.10-3.20 The James White Show (7030181) 3.20-3.30 The Local (988330) 3.30-3.40 Blood Ties (2218151) 3.40-3.50 Nasty Mothers (9004851) 4.00-4.10 The Album (9131617) 5.00 Crime, Cinema, Cinema (13100)

- BBC2**
- 6.00 Flight Simulators and Robots (9036154) 6.25 The True Geometry of Nature (9015661) 6.50 Opening Up Technology (949680)
7.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax) and signing (4332203)
7.15 Lasse (r) (3117406) 7.40 Pirates of Dark Water (r) (1574406) 8.05 Smart (r) (Ceefax) (s) (3708222)
8.35 The Record (s) (4581408)
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Including, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (8237339) 2.00 Fiddle Fiddle Bird (9471048)
2.10 Sport on Friday. Action from the National Tennis Championships (s). Includes at 3.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (298454) 3.55 News (Ceefax) and weather (8170680)
4.00 Today's the Day. History quiz (s) (16)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. Chais compete (s) (28)
5.00 Esther. The guest is David Essex (s) (4116)
5.30 Going Going Gone. Auction game (s) (80)
6.00 The Munsters (b/w) (Ceefax) (379884)
6.25 The New Avengers: To Catch a Rat. Vintage caper series (r). (Ceefax) (161661)
7.15 Football, Football, Football. Four decades of European football. This week: the British teams (473338)
8.00 Top Gear Motorsport. The McLaren F1; the Marx Grand Prix; and a review of Formula Ford racing (Ceefax) (s) (3628)
8.30 Jancie Robinson's Wine Course: Grape Invaders. (Ceefax) (s) (2135)
9.00 Not the Nine O'Clock News. Comedy repeat (Ceefax) (8883)
9.30 Shooting Stars. Comedy quiz with Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, Mark Lams and Ulrika Jonsson, David Baddiel, Muriel Gray, Paul Shane and Annabel Giles (Ceefax) (s) (5884)
10.00 Have I Got News for You. Topical quiz. This week with Ian Hislop, Paul Merton, Bob Mills and Alex Sainford (s) (22583)
10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (340864)



Paul Brophy eyes the talent (11.15pm)

- 11.15 Don't Give Up Your Day Job (s) (888116) Wales: Welsh Lobby 11.45 Don't Give Up Your Day Job 12.20am The Best of the Real McCoy (1982) 2.25 Film: A Night in the Life of Jimmy Reardon
11.45 Weather (816832)
11.50 The Best of the Real McCoy (229447)
12.20am FILM: A Night in the Life of Jimmy Reardon (1988). Coming-of-age drama starring River Phoenix and Meredith Salenger. Directed by William Richert (939707). Ends 1.55

- VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes**
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. A VideoPlus+ card can be used with most video recorders. For more details call 0800 123000 (toll free) or visit our website at www.videoplus.co.uk. VideoPlus+ is a registered trademark of VideoPlus+ Ltd. VideoPlus+ is a registered trademark of VideoPlus+ Ltd.

- For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**
- SKY ONE**
7.00am DJ Kai (51339) 8.00 Power Rangers (72411) 9.00 Jeopardy! (72512) 10.00 Court TV (33333) 11.00 60 Minutes (9004851) 11.30 The Tonight Show (9004851) 12.00 Late Show (9004851) 1.00am The Tonight Show (9004851) 1.30am The Tonight Show (9004851) 2.00am The Tonight Show (9004851) 2.30am The Tonight Show (9004851) 3.00am The Tonight Show (9004851) 3.30am The Tonight Show (9004851) 4.00am The Tonight Show (9004851) 4.30am The Tonight Show (9004851) 5.00am The Tonight Show (9004851) 5.30am The Tonight Show (9004851) 6.00am The Tonight Show (9004851) 6.30am The Tonight Show (9004851) 7.00am The Tonight Show (9004851) 7.30am The Tonight Show (9004851) 8.00am The Tonight Show (9004851) 8.30am The Tonight Show (9004851) 9.00am The Tonight Show (9004851) 9.30am The Tonight Show (9004851) 10.00am The Tonight Show (9004851) 10.30am The Tonight Show (9004851) 11.00am The Tonight Show (9004851) 11.30am The Tonight Show (9004851) 12.00am The Tonight Show (9004851) 12.30am The Tonight Show (9004851) 1.00am The Tonight Show (9004851) 1.30am The Tonight Show 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SPORT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3 1995

Crawley and Ramprakash enhance chances of Test selection

Smith fast running out of time

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON
IN EAST LONDON

THE battle to confirm batting places in the Test team intensified here on a wind-picked day, which England ended on 218 for four. John Crawley made 87 unbeaten runs and Mark Ramprakash supplied a brace of 70, but Robin Smith, who needs a decent score more than anybody, suffered a third-ball duck and will shortly have nowhere to hide.

When the touring party was selected, it was thought that Crawley and Ramprakash were competing for one spot, having shared it last summer. On form, each player is entitled to think that he will play in the first Test. If England decide to play six specialist batsmen, they are both in form and Smith, to whom England look for the big-match innings, is clearly not.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND XI: First Innings
J P Crawley not out 87
A J Stewart c Kirsten b Ntini 11
M Ramprakash c Cullinan b Fourie 70
R A Smith bow to Fourie 0
G A Hick c Paltman b Cronje 10
J H C Russell not out 16
Extras (lb 4, w 2, nb 10) 16
Total (4 wickets) 218
D G Cork, D Gough, M C Lott, R K Wengert and P J Martin
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-143, 3-148, 4-184
BOWLING: Fourie 16-6-30-2; Ntini 19-2-35-1; Bena 9-0-29-0; Enwez 5-0-31-0; Howell 8-0-33-0; Cronje 8-1-15-1; Pope 3-0-15-0; Symonds 1-1-0-0
BATTERS: P J Borth, F J C Cronje, P N Kirsten, D J Cullinan, P C Symonds, R A Smith, J H C Russell, L L Howell, S C Fane, P A N Smith, M Ntini
Umpires: D Orchard and R Noble

His first-class sequence on this tour reads 4, 0, 0.

His difficulty is amplified by the importance of giving Graham Thorpe some much-needed practice in the middle. Thorpe flew back to England yesterday to be with his wife, who lost their child in an ectopic pregnancy, and he will return to South Africa next week, in time to play at Kimberley. He needs to, for it will be his only first-class cricket before the Tests start.

Should Smith fail to make a significant score in the second innings here, he may be stymied because England, surely, will have to settle their batting order.

He was leg-before yesterday to Fourie, moving across his crease, not fully forward. After Crawley and Ramprakash had made 120 for the second wicket to make good the early loss of Stewart, it was not a wicket that England wanted to



Crawley sweeps during his patient, unbeaten innings of 87 against Border in East London yesterday. Photograph: Graham Morris

concede so readily. Smith looked a forlorn figure as he shuffled back to the pavilion, aware no doubt that he is not justifying the public declarations of support that Michael Atherton, the captain, feels obliged to provide.

Stewart, leading the team in place of Atherton, won the toss when play started after lunch. After driving a handsome straight boundary, he turned a ball off his hip to short mid-wicket to give Makhaya Ntini his first wicket in first-class cricket. Ntini, who has just turned 18, toured England

earlier this year with the South Africa A team and ran in with great enthusiasm. He might have had Ramprakash on 11 when an edged drive squeezed between wicket-keeper and slip.

That was a rare blemish by Ramprakash, who settled quickly and was soon showing the bowlers the full face of the bat, executing his attacking strokes with a full swing. He is all confidence at the moment and went to his half-century in 63 balls, with eight boundaries. Crawley needed exactly

fifty, though, as opener, he had determined to construct a different kind of innings.

Whereas Crawley opted for caution, Ramprakash was happy to challenge the bowlers. He took two strides down the pitch to meet Howell, the slow left-arm, and deposited him over the long-off boundary with the most splendid drive. There was power in the stroke and that power was all the better for being understated. He was batting so freely that a century seemed inevitable until he swayed Fourie to extra cover.

Smith followed in Fourie's next over, after which Hick announced himself with two vigorous pulls for four. He, too, could do with more time at the crease than he has spent so far and he was just venturing into open water when he cut at the medium pace of Cronje, the brother of the South Africa captain, and departed to a catch by Paltman, standing up to the stumps.

Crawley was not going to be budged so easily, and with Russell he saw England to the close. His innings has not been pretty, but he has demon-

strated patience and, for the most part, a straightness of bat. He is not playing just for fun and, in the long term, his sober approach will surely bring its own reward.

Craig White will miss the second one-day game of the England A tour, against a Pakistan Cricket Board XI, in Thatta today after fracturing his thumb while fielding in the opening fixture on Wednesday. White has been told to rest for ten days.

ENGLAND A (from): N Hussain, J Potting, D O'Keeffe, J Gasson, R Amin, A McGrath, K Pappas, S Udd, D Headley, S Giddeon, R Sherriff, M Smith

Italian disdain
rests uneasily
with Rangers

By KEVIN MCCARRA

ONLY once during the two European Cup Champions' League fixtures against Rangers did any member of the Juventus staff look cornered. After the 4-0 victory at Ibrox on Wednesday, Marcello Lippi, the Italian team's coach, attempted the impossible, trying to discuss the game without seeming to denigrate a Scottish team that had been crass as well as inept.

For all his diplomacy, the feat could not be pulled off. Lippi's true opinions broke cover when he was asked why Fabrizio Ravanelli, his potent forward, appeared only as a late substitute and goalscorer, in Glasgow. The coach replied that his players needed periods of rest.

The answer demonstrated that Juventus do not give a game with Rangers their top-priority rating. There had been the usual rhetoric about the pride, passion and sheer noise which would confront Lippi's team at Ibrox, but he still viewed the trip to Scotland as a welcome lull in a schedule packed with more demanding occasions. Here was an evening for Ravanelli to unwind while his team-mates tightened the screw on Rangers.

The Scottish champions were not only beaten but — almost as painful — disregarded. In truth, Rangers were not overwhelmed to quite the extent that they had been when losing 4-1 in Turin a fortnight earlier and Juventus's margin of victory at Ibrox was inflated by two goals in the closing moments. However, the Italians felt no need to be quite as vehement as they had been on their own ground.

Rangers did lack several significant players, but Juventus also chose to dilute their strength. Ravanelli was not the only one of their leading figures to be excused his normal workload. Even those on the field throughout faced only light duties. Juventus quickly matched the initial aggression of Rangers and thereafter controlled the tempo.

Despite the modest speed of the game, however, Paul Gascoigne could not quite clamber on board. The Englishman may not deserve special blame, yet his ineffectiveness was the most damaging factor to Rangers.

In Gascoigne, a record signing at £4.3 million, the club had believed it at last pos-

sessed the kind of player who could civilise the traditional uncouth ways of Scottish teams.

No single individual could quite be up to that task, but the anxiety over Gascoigne's bafflement against alert Italian opposition may not be confined to his immediate employers at Ibrox.

Terry Venables had begun to consider the midfield player as the fulcrum of the England team he hopes to field in the European championship finals next year.

Now, the player seems to be drifting away from the standards demanded at such an event. Gascoigne may regard the defeat by Juventus as a bad night, but his play had been just as sketchy the previous week in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final defeat against Aberdeen.

During a television inter-



Gascoigne: ineffective

view, he was to remark that he had given one of the two or three worst performances of his life in that game. How alarming, therefore, that he should once again be so subject only seven days later.

Curiously, after such embarrassment, Rangers' circumstances seem to retain a certain ambiguity. The club could qualify for the European Cup quarter-finals as runners-up in Champions' League group C, although victories at home to Steaua Bucharest and away to Borussia Dortmund would be required. Walter Smith, the manager, recognised that possibility briefly on Wednesday, but would not discuss the topic. He surely accepted that, for the moment at least, it would be impertinent even to imagine Rangers taking a prominent role in the European Cup.

FA to investigate failure in Europe

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Football Association is to hold a meeting to investigate why English clubs have performed so poorly in European competitions this season; yet it believes that, at grassroots level, there is reason to be optimistic.

Terry Venables, the England coach, said: "Our aim has to be first to catch up and then to overtake rival nations as quickly as possible. It's important to monitor and pool all the experiences our clubs have had — good or bad."

Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the FA, said: "No one can dispute we have been

underperforming in Europe in recent seasons and everything we can do to improve the situation we must do. We are already addressing the problems we believe exist at the grass roots. That process is continuing."

Managers of the six English clubs involved in European competition this season — Blackburn Rovers, Everton, Nottingham Forest, Leeds United, Liverpool and Manchester United — will be invited to the meeting. A joint invitation from Venables and Kelly will be sent in the next few days to the clubs concerned. The meeting is likely to be held within weeks.

It will be the second time that managers have met this season at the invitation of the FA, but the need for an urgent assessment of the performances of English teams in Europe has been heightened by events of recent weeks.

However, in a disappointing week for English teams in Europe, the FA has been heartened by impressive performances from its youth teams.

The England Under-16 team recently beat Belgium 1-0 away and Sweden 5-0 away, both in games to qualify for the final stages of the under-16 European championships, but there is particular concern

about the development of players aged between 16 and 21.

Representatives of several football organisations including the FA, the FA Premier League, the Professional Footballers' Association and the Football League met today at Littlehampton to discuss the subject.

The FA is also continuing with its search for a new technical director with the task of overseeing the future development of football. Candidates are being considered from both England and abroad.

Too little too late, page 44

Davies seizes place in rugby history

UNDER normal circumstances, no self-respecting sports club would trot out in their next premier league match a 33-year-old with a battered body who had not played the game for seven years and who had trained only once as part of the team.

David Hands catches up with a player who is seeking a final flirtation with his first love

first significant transfer between the codes after the professionalisation of rugby union, his place in history is assured and Cardiff are making the most of it.

The Heineken League champions have moved to tomorrow's home meeting with Aberavon to Sunday, to maximise the impact of the prodigal son's return — probably at full back. The match, which pits the joint leaders against the club third from the bottom of the first division, and would normally rate as a humdrum fixture, will be televised by BBC Wales in a specially-extended programme starting at 3.40pm and, if it is not a 14,200 sell-out, Gareth Davies, the Cardiff chief executive, will want to know why.

"I would have liked a bit more time before playing a game but there you are," Jonathan Davies said, the rueful, cheeky-chappy grin still there. "I have to justify my place in the side and that won't be easy. I hope the other players will help me along. I hope I won't try a play-the-ball in front of thousands of people. I might change my mind at the bottom of a ruck."

Cardiff have had to find around £70,000 in compensation for the player's former club, Warrington, and acknowledge the contribution of Peter Thomas, their own sponsor, and Chris Evans, a wealthy businessman — based in Aberavon as it happens — who sought involvement with a leading club. Cardiff also had to find

career possibilities for Davies and Jewson, the building materials company, have provided that. Davies will work in an as-yet unspecified capacity for the company but probably as part of their sales force.

"This is the most public statement Cardiff have made about competing in the future," Gareth Davies said.

Jonathan Davies is there to fill the Arms Park club's ground as regularly as possible and inject enthusiasm for the game. He is also there as a mentor for young players who know little about the conduct of professional sport, and as a conduit for any other talented player who seeks to revert from league to union. □ Martin Bayfield, the England lock who plays for Northampton in the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship, has turned down a £50,000 offer to join Harlequins.

Obituary, page 21

No 617

ACROSS

- 1 Given inappropriate role (7)
- 5 Equation with third power (5)
- 8 Snooker table cloth (5)
- 9 Sheaved sand; thingumajig (7)
- 10 Rumbled state (12)
- 12 Picasso, Braque style (6)
- 14 Book size, sheet folded into eight (6)
- 17 Able to be recognised (12)
- 21 Reveals by unwrapping (7)
- 22 Lead weight; suffer (the worst) (5)
- 23 Muslim name of God (5)
- 24 Slim (7)

DOWN

- 1 Melville's whale (4-4)
- 2 Sort of roll, cheese, Guard (5)
- 3 Eternally young (7)
- 4 Urban sophisticate (derog.) (6)
- 5 Attraction; spell (5)
- 6 Sudden luck, wealth (7)
- 7 Animals; a musical (4)
- 11 Hood's hated month (8)
- 13 Torment, haunt (7)
- 15 Disable (7)
- 16 Fails to catch; girls (6)
- 18 Call like horse (5)
- 19 Jump; compelled (5)
- 20 Havana's island (4)

The solution to 616 will be published Wednesday, November 8

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Accused Malan speaks of democracy's darkest hour

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN DURBAN

EMERGING from a courtroom to cries of "killers", General Magnus Malan, the former South African Defence Minister, yesterday gave a warning that the country's fledgling democracy was heading for crisis after he and ten apartheid-era security chiefs were accused of murder and released on bail.

Appearing briefly at the Durban regional court, the men were fingerprinted and photographed before being ordered to hand over passports and to report weekly to local police until December 1.

Then formal charges will be laid against General Malan, 65, and his co-accused relating to the 1987 massacre of 13 people, including five children under ten, gunned down in the Zululand village home of a well-known African National Congress supporter.

The charges have inflamed the passions of the white Right, who have accused the ANC of a vengeful witch-hunt. The political fallout has sent shudders through the Government of national unity.

The arrests were announced by the Safety and Security Minister, Sydney Mufamadi, at the weekend. Yesterday he said investigations would continue even if they implicated F.W. de Klerk, the former President and present Second Deputy President, and Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party.

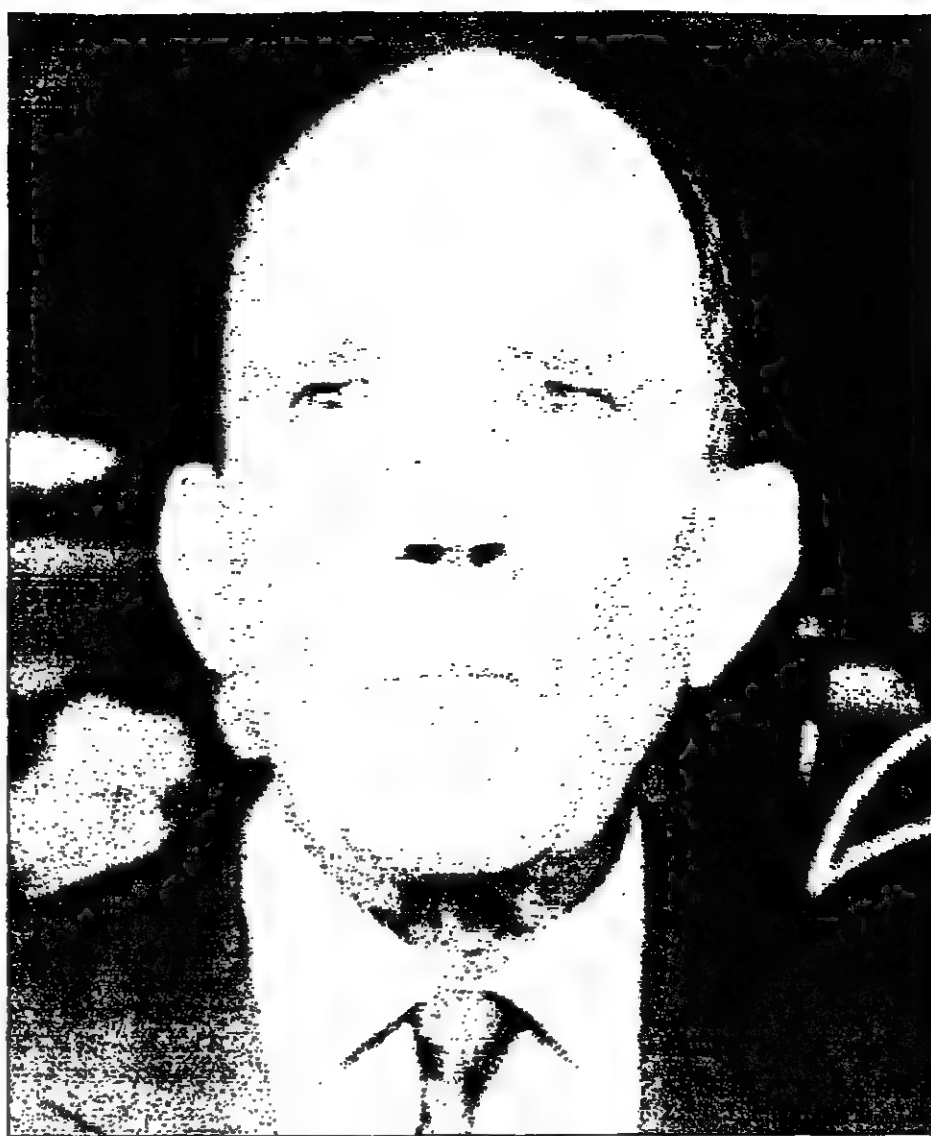
The accused, who also include former heads of the defence force, army and military intelligence, have also been linked to the formation of a "third force" paramilitary group for the Inkatha Freedom Party, which instigated black-on-black violence to discredit the ANC, General Malan, Defence Minister between

1980 and 1991, was then one of the country's most powerful figures. To many blacks he is the quintessence of apartheid evil.

When the generals emerged from the court a group of blacks pointed and shouted: "Down with the killers of innocent children". As the riot police rushed forward to restrain the surging crowd, General Malan, raising his voice, declared that he was a moderate, a democrat and a Christian. He added: "What happened here today is the biggest crisis in the democracy of South Africa. Democracy in South Africa is now in its darkest hour ever."

Onlookers were unmoved. Ann Colvin, a white South African involved in the anti-apartheid cause, said: "I went to the trials of so-called freedom fighters during the apartheid years and to see the real perpetrators brought to book is great."

Mbusi Ntuli, 21, in exile when the massacre happened, lost his father and three sisters. Fighting back tears, he said: "Amnesty would be wrong. This is not a political case, it is criminal and they deserve harsh sentences."



General Malan leaving a Durban court yesterday where he and ten security chiefs were accused of killing 13 people in a massacre at Kwa Makutha

Poor poll turnout as ANC leads local race

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

AS RESULTS of South Africa's first all-race local government elections trickled in yesterday, the African National Congress appeared to be heading for a repeat of its general election victory 18 months ago, but with significantly fewer votes.

Predictions that there would be massive voter apathy because of the Government's failure to deliver on promises were borne out, particularly in crime-ridden Johannesburg, where election officials said only 30 per cent of voters had gone to the polls. Elsewhere polls of up to 65 per cent were reported. In the general election in April last year there was an 80 per cent turnout.

Valli Moosa, Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development, claimed the ANC was heading for a "massive" victory. He said there had been a major shift of Coloured and Indian voters to the ANC.

Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, of the task group set up to organise the poll, said the election had been virtually violence-free and indicated a spirit of democratic tolerance.

Lockerbie ceremony boycott

WASHINGTON: The dedication today by President Clinton of a Lockerbie disaster memorial altar, paid for by the US government, is being boycotted by some of the victims' relatives. They are staying away to express their anger at what they regard as inadequate efforts to bring to justice those responsible for the plane crash that killed 270 people on a Pan Am jetliner in 1988.

Politician killed

BOGOTÁ: Alberto Torres Hurtado, 70, a former presidential candidate and co-founder of the Colombian Liberal movement, was killed in an attack by two or three gunmen here, local radio said. He was

OJ romance over

LOS ANGELES: The model Paula Patton, 24, who has dated O.J. Simpson during his trial for double murder, has now ended their relationship, she told ABC television.

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Chalker says Nigeria faces ban from Commonwealth

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

IF THE death sentences on Ken Saro-Wiwa and others convicted in Nigeria are not commuted and there is no sign of a swifter return to democracy, the Commonwealth must consider suspending Nigeria, Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Development Minister, said yesterday.

However she said the Commonwealth leaders meeting in Auckland may not want to take this step without more evidence, including monitoring human rights. Any action against Nigeria had to be balanced by consideration of democracy and human rights in all Commonwealth countries, she said.

Lady Chalker, who will represent Britain instead of

Makolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said that London was doing everything it could to get the death sentences commuted. She said that achieving reform in a country as complex as Nigeria was difficult, but the three-year timetable for a return to democracy proposed by General Sani Abacha, the military leader, was "clearly too long".

The graduated measures on dealing with rogue states, which will be discussed at Auckland, had to be realistic. There was no point threatening penalties that could not be carried out.

It was important that African countries, some of which she said were as worried as Britain over human rights

abuses, also speak out. "There are a number of African Presidents who have said you can respect human rights even if you don't have homes."

Lady Chalker said she hoped that President Mandela would use his enormous moral authority to persuade Nigeria and other countries, such as The Gambia and Kenya, where human rights are under threat, to carry out democratic reforms swiftly.

She said that the issue of nuclear bomb tests was certain to be raised, but Britain would point out that it, along with France and America, was committed to a comprehensive test ban.

Letters, page 19

Mengistu buys up Zimbabwe homes

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

THE former Ethiopian dictator, Mengistu Haile Mariam, living in exile in Zimbabwe at considerable cost to that country's taxpayers, has begun a property investment spree, it was confirmed yesterday.

Deeds office records show that in July and August Colonel Mengistu — known as "the Butcher of Addis Ababa" and on trial in absentia in Ethiopia for genocide — paid nearly £190,000 for two properties in affluent areas of the capital. The transactions were in the name of his son, Andenat, who is 19 and an undergraduate at the University of Zimbabwe.

About £80,000 on the Harare market easily secures a large modern home in a couple of acres with a pool

and tennis court. Real estate sources say Colonel Mengistu has put out the word that he is in the market for more "reasonably priced" properties.

Since May 1991 when he fled Ethiopia shortly before it fell to rebel armies he has been living in a state villa in the Gunhill diplomatic enclave. In six months last year he ran up a near-£20,000 telephone bill, using 40 per cent of the communication services budget at the Ministry of Construction, which had to bear the cost.

Befekadu Kamisso, First Secretary at the Ethiopian Embassy, was not surprised to see the colonel had large cash reserves. "We believe he has much more than this. He just robbed from Ethiopia."

Philippines ravaged by typhoon

Manila: One person was killed and 20 injured by the fringes of a 155mph typhoon with destroyed 15,000 homes in the Philippines yesterday.

The cyclone was expected to hit Manila, the capital, today after 60,000 people were forced to flee their homes by 5ft floods which knocked out power in provincial towns and cities.

"The winds are so powerful that people in tall buildings here feel they are being hit by an earthquake," Severo Alcantara, Governor of Catanduanes island, said. (Reuters)

Workers shot

Karachi: Gunmen rounded up and shot dead 15 migrant workers here in what could be revenge for the police killing of three militants of the Mohajir National Movement the previous day. (Reuters)

China talks fail

Peking: China and Britain ended talks over Hong Kong's future with Peking repeating a threat to overturn the territory's Bill of Rights and British officials cautioning against rash moves. (Reuters)

Boy kills teacher

Moscow: A boy, 12, killed his teacher and her daughter, seven, with a hammer in the Volga River town of Togliatti after he was found trying to change his marks in the class ledger, a newspaper said. (AP)

Beatles attacked

Nicosia: Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Iranian spiritual leader, in a Tehran radio speech aimed at the nation's youth, equated the Beatles with the nihilism that he said undermined Western society.

Form guide

Hong Kong: The High Court here, responding to a drug trafficker's petition, ruled that removing the horse racing sections from prisoners' newspapers violates their human rights. (Reuters)

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£70 million compensation deal for tribal federation receives royal signature today

Maori land protesters denounce the Queen

By MICHAEL MUNRO IN WELLINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MAORI protesters yesterday chanted "the Queen go home" as she urged New Zealanders to work together to heal racial divisions and mend past injustices.

The Queen was whisked past about 70 Maori demonstrators, some brandishing placards denouncing her as an "imperial parasite", when she visited a Maori arts and crafts institute. Police outnumbered the protesters by three to one as the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrived at the institute at Rotorua in central North Island.

She was met by signs reading "Give our land back", a reference to land taken from Maoris in breach of the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi between their warrior ancestors and the Crown. Hundreds of claims are still outstanding for the return of Maori lands confiscated in breach of the treaty, although the Queen

said advances had been made since her last visit in 1990.

"You have made substantial progress since then, with even so much remaining to be done," she said later at an opening ceremony for New Zealand's refurbished parliament buildings in Wellington. "I hope all New Zealanders will consider the size and nature of the task before you — a task that calls for patience, tolerance, perseverance and a will to succeed."

At the institute, the Queen was greeted by men in traditional warrior dress and watched Maori craftsmen at work and saw exhibitions of flax weaving and wood-carving. The Queen entered the institute building to encounter a friendlier face of Maoridom.

Racial tensions in New Zealand stem from long-standing Maori claims that guarantees made under the treaty have not been honoured, and royal



The Queen, wearing a Maori cloak made of kiwi feathers, receives the challenge of Mita Mohi MBE on arrival at the Maori arts institute

visitors are often the target of Maori protests. Most Maoris respect the Queen and see her as a guarantor of their people's rights under the 1840 treaty, by which they accepted

British sovereignty in exchange for free possession of their lands. Some see the monarchy as having betrayed Maoris. Today at Government House in Wellington the

Queen will sign legislation which seals a £70 million compensation package for the Tainui federation of tribes, which had vast areas of land confiscated by British colo-

nists. She will announce the return of 39,000 acres of land, an isolated success for the Government in clearing the backlog. However, a Maori request for the Queen to make

a personal apology while in New Zealand was rejected by New Zealand's Government.

Robert Rhodes James, page 18

FACTFILE

Population: One in eleven New Zealanders is Maori and almost four-fifths of these are urban dwellers. These Polynesian people are increasingly intermarrying with New Zealanders of European origin.

Economy: A disproportionately large number of Maoris have poorly paid, low-status jobs. This is due to continuing educational deficiencies, despite the setting up of the Maori Education Foundation in 1981.

Culture: Although there has been some revival of the teaching of the Maori language, such formal cultural indicators of Maoriness are becoming less and less significant. The Maori greeting, however, the pressing together of noses, is still practised.

Government: Maoris have taken an active part in New Zealand politics since the mid-19th century when Maori members first entered parliament. Four out of the total of 95 seats in the New Zealand Parliament are reserved for Maoris.

Hardship: Maoris figure disproportionately highly in statistics such as prison numbers and unemployment. They are also struggling to get public recognition of rights based on their understanding of the country's founding treaty.

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Maori chiefs recognise British sovereignty over their land by signing the Treaty of Waitangi on May 21, 1840

Seeds of dispute sown in treaty to protect rights

By MICHAEL MUNRO

THE Maoris, the indigenous people of New Zealand, have been trying for 150 years to settle injustices suffered after they became part of British imperial expansion.

The Treaty of Waitangi, New Zealand's foundation document, was signed on May 21, 1840, by Captain William Hobson, who represented the British Crown, and more than 500 tribal chiefs.

Under the treaty, Maori interests were supposedly protected. However, separate and differing English and Maori-language versions have long made the apparent agreement

a source of confusion. In return for signing away the sovereignty of the country, the Maoris — they call themselves the *tangata whenua* (the people of the land) — wanted some rights. They had, after all, arrived in the islands about 800 years before the Europeans.

The treaty gave the British Crown the exclusive right to buy Maori land. In return Maoris were guaranteed full rights of ownership of their lands, fisheries and other "prized possessions". The parties had differing expectations of the powers they had and argument has raged ever since.

New Zealand's human history is shrouded in pre-literate time, but contemporary historians agree that Maoris, a people of East Polynesian origin, probably arrived in the 10th or 11th century. The ancestors of these people are believed to have left South-

East Asia between 5,000 and 7,000 years ago.

In New Zealand the Maoris developed one of the world's most sophisticated Neolithic cultures, using ample supplies of suitable stone to make axes, chisels and drill points.

They excelled at wood-carving, crafting fish-hooks and needles out of bone, making weapons and ornaments from a type of jade called greenstone, and weaving flax.

They had a vast number of gods, a series of myths and legends to account for the existence of New Zealand, and a belief in the afterlife. Life was organised around food growing and gathering and warfare, and there was ritual cannibalism.

On contact with Europeans in the 18th century, Maoris developed an enthusiasm for trade and the selling of land, although misunderstandings over what had taken place in some land transactions often had tragic consequences.

The coming of the Europeans also gave the Maoris access to firearms, which they used to devastating effect when settling old scores in a series of inter-tribal battles that became known as the Musket Wars.

However, the Europeans also brought sicknesses. Epidemics of influenza, smallpox, cholera, typhoid and venereal disease contributed to a 40 per cent reduction in the Maori population in the first half of last century.

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Forever shaken not stirred

Giles Whittell, a fan of Bond movies, has a sneak preview of the new 007 in action in the latest film, *GoldenEye*

There is a satisfying moment in *GoldenEye*, the forthcoming and long-awaited Bond film, in which 007 is driven to a secret meeting by a female former Soviet fighter pilot called Xenia Onatop. On arrival, he squints pensively toward the camera for an instant before delivering a sharp karate chop to the back of Xenia's neck. Her head falls forward. For all we know, she is dead.

The chop is hardly an endorsement of violence against women since it follows a Jacuzzi scene in which our hero narrowly escapes being crushed to death between Ms Onatop's thighs. But it is a gratuitous chop, performed with chilling heartlessness: a piece of true Bondian sadism that Ian Fleming himself might have scripted. Hence the element of satisfaction.

MGM, the studio distributing *GoldenEye*, can rest easy for the time being. Following in Timothy Dalton's unsteady footsteps, Pierce Brosnan acquires himself with style and authenticity as the fifth Bond in 33 years. Existing fans of the genre will troop loyally to the cinema because he is Bond, and they will be pleased to see him slip easily into what remains of the role. Several million others, mostly women, will pay to see him because he is Pierce Brosnan, known from the television series *Remington Steele* for his fine bone structure and general suavity.

In short, the longest-running series in film history will not die with *GoldenEye*. But neither will it last much longer without a decent script: the new Bond is much better than the film he inhabits.

A glossy men's magazine suggested recently that 007 has become "a man with a motivation problem". This allusion to the end of the Cold War and its attendant villains makes no sense, of course. Britain still has plenty of spies and the world plenty of rascals on whom Bond films could be based if they were meant to be realistic spy adventures. But they are not.

There have been 17 Bond films so far — more than all the Rocky, Indiana Jones and *Batman* movies combined. They have been released every couple of years since Pierce Brosnan was nine and have thrived, above all, as realisations of

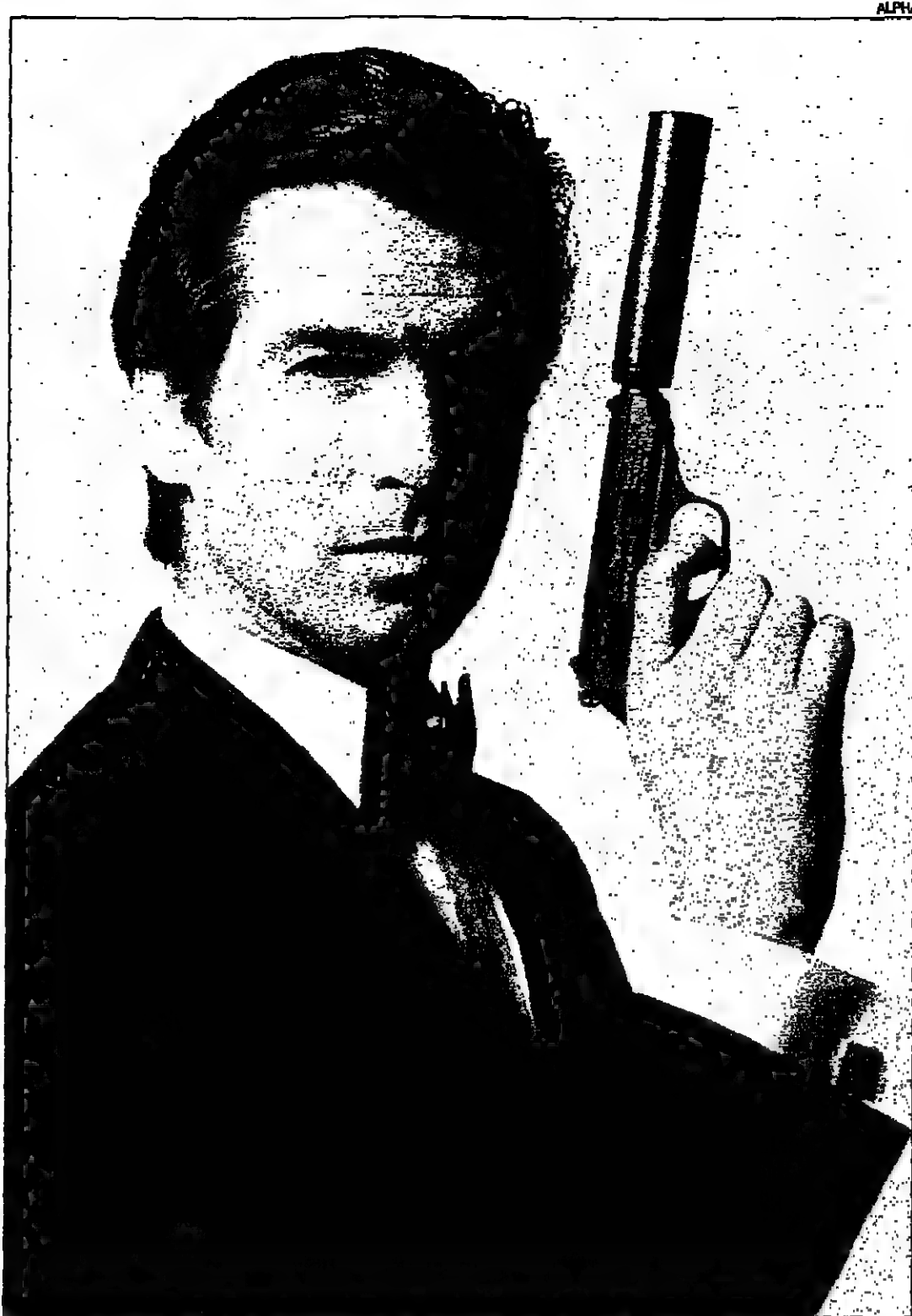
wild adolescent fantasies about sex, gadgetry, invincibility and what it means to be British — ingredients never more brilliantly combined than in the opening sequence of *The Spy Who Loved Me*. Roger Moore manages to seduce a Russian spy on a bearskin rug, read an encoded telex over her shoulder as it emerges from his watch, gun down his pursuers with machine-gun ski sticks as he skis backwards over a towering precipice, and float to safety beneath a parachute emblazoned with the Union Jack.

Such acts are hard to follow. *GoldenEye* does its best, but offers up precious few new fantasies. Instead, it nearly sinks under a self-conscious attempt to satisfy Bond bores and politically correct revisionists. This is not so much a new Bond adventure as bits of all the old ones updated for the Nineties.

The silver-grey Aston Martin DB6 that was 007's pride and joy in *Casino Royale* makes a welcome reappearance — but as a collector's item rather than a state-of-the-art speed machine. It also has a fax above the gear stick. Bond is still a womaniser, but is continually upbraided for it in incongruous modern jargon. Miss Moneybags warns she could sue him for sexual harassment, and "M" berates him for being "a sexist, misogynist dinosaur" whose "boyish charms" are "wasted on me".

As the dialogue suggests, M still gives the orders at Universal Exports, but in deference to Stella Rimington she is played by Judy Dench. Out in the field, Bond's patriotism is put to work protecting something called the Eurocopter from the Russians, whose operatives are no longer KGB agents, of course, but former KGB agents-turned-gangsters. Even Bond's colleague, 006, puts in an appearance, though to reveal what he becomes would be unspoiling.

Some unimpaired aspects of the formula seem not just old, but old hat. The imagination of the villain-in-chief still fails to extend beyond stealing top-secret weapons. He still means to control them from a vast subterranean, subterranean hideaway, and is still alerted to Bond's arrival with a claxon that sounds like a donkey. The finale



Pierce Brosnan's Bond is still a womaniser, but is reproached for being "a sexist, misogynist dinosaur"

could almost have been put together with out-takes from *Moonraker* and *For Your Eyes Only*.

In the six years since *Licence to Kill*, the one component of the Bond edifice to have evolved satisfactorily appears to be the man himself. Embodied by Brosnan, Bond has learnt to bungee-jump and swotted up on regional accents in former Soviet republics. But he

has preserved the essence of Fleming's original creation, who in the words of one of his greatest admirers, the late Sir Kingsley Amis, was "handsome, elegant, brave, tough, at ease in expensive surroundings, predatory and yet chivalrous in sexual dealings, with a touch of Byronic melancholy and remoteness thrown in". All Brosnan needs to do next

time, apart from insisting on a script worthy of Fleming's own originality, is lighten up a bit. There is little to laugh at in *GoldenEye*, yet it was with humour that the unfairly maligned Roger Moore shepherded Bond through seven lucrative films. It is not quite enough to know that Ms Onatop ended up, metaphorically speaking, on the bottom.

Magnus Linklater on the value of the Lords

The landed interest

The ermine has been ruffled, the coronet knocked askew by this week's rude television assault on the integrity of the House of Lords. Channel 4's *Dispatches* programme purported to reveal the seedy side of their lordships' conduct. It suggested that one or two of them were on the make or, perhaps, prepared to accept consultancy fees to lobby for vested interests without disclosing the matter.

Dispatches came up with one peer who failed to observe the rule that peers must declare an interest in the course of a parliamentary speech. Lord Wade of Chorlton, who spoke up for more incinerators to dispose of waste, failed to mention in his speech that he had been chairman of an organisation which represented a company called the Energy from Waste Association.

Lord Lucas of Chilworth, on the other hand, made no secret at all of his interest. He had proposed 56 amendments to the Environment Bill, all aimed at reducing controls on the waste disposal industry, while being paid a retainer by the Association of Waste Disposal Contractors. He mentioned it in his speech with a cheerful grin, though he did not actually disclose the amount — £5,000.

The fact that both cases involved waste gave *Dispatches* several opportunities to show footage of dirt being shovelled on municipal dumps, thus suitably reinforcing the message of sleaze. All in all, the charges were less than devastating, but it was the fact that they could be made at all that hurt. After all, the whole *raison d'être* of the House of Lords hangs on its reputation as a place free of the taint of venality. While the House of Commons may have to wrestle with the Nolan recommendations, the Lords relies on a code of honour which goes to the heart of its constitutional role.

The Lords do have their own version of Nolan — the recommendations of Lord Griffiths, which propose a register of financial interests and an agreement not to use parliamentary

influence on behalf of lobbying companies. But there is a dilemma here: the strength of the House of Lords lies in the fact that its members represent nobody but themselves. They are in a sense an assembly of vested interests. Unelected, its only virtue is its ability to draw on an eclectic range of knowledge which has no parallel in the other House.

When a landowning peer from the North of Scotland ventures down to Westminster to speak about forestry, he may well be accused of a conflict of interest since he probably owns several thousand acres of trees. But he is also speaking with a first-hand knowledge which is likely to be denied an MP from Penge.

The Earl of Glasgow, who runs a country park in Ayrshire, often gets up to speak about tourism. But in keeping with a long tradition in the Lords, he declares the interest in the course of his speech. "Naturally I'm biased on the subject," he says, "but you do tend to be biased on the things you know about."

Lord Elgin, who used to sit on the boards of several companies, said that since the House of Lords is a fairly intimate club, most people know perfectly well which interests their fellow peers represent. He said it was a matter of honour to refer to those interests in any speech from the floor: "If you didn't it was very soon spotted."

Viscount Thurso, who was introduced to the House just this week, recalled that his father, who owned one of the best salmon rivers in Scotland, once scribbled an amendment to a Salmon Bill which sought to prevent Canadian salmon being introduced to Scottish rivers. He did so on the back of an envelope in the course of a debate, simply because he happened to know more about the subject than anyone else. "There was no secret about the fact that he owned a salmon river," said his son, "and he declared it. But that didn't mean that the points he was making were any less valid." They were eventually incorporated into the Bill.

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The celebrated beauty and author who ran away from three marriages and survived the brunt of Amis's gibes

'I had to bolt from Kingsley or become an awful person'

I must not pretend," Sir Kingsley Amis once said to me, "that I did not fall in love with my second wife." He quoted Billie Holiday's song: "Love can make you drink and gamble, Love can make you dance all night long. Love can make you do things that you know to be wrong."

To be candid: Elizabeth Jane Howard's final novel in her absorbing Cazalet tetralogy, *Casting Off*, might not have excited such interest had it not coincided with the death of her former husband. It is a real moment of casting-off for Jane who, ever a lady, is afflicted by *de mortuis*. "I just feel very sad about it," she says quietly in her deep voice. "Martin rang me, very upset, and told me, 'She knew Kingsley was ill, so it was not a total shock. She 'absolutely understood' not being invited to the funeral; but will attend the memorial service."

After enduring years of "half-truths, withholdings and downright lies," she wrote to Amis's biographer, Eric Jacobs, correcting matters, but did not read his book. "I decided not to fight back at all. About anything. It doesn't change things, does it? What people think of me may hurt my feelings but it doesn't change how anything was. And how things were is a matter between Kingsley and me, a matter of truth. I don't have any rancorous need to get my own back."

At Lemmons, for instance: "Lots of friends had very good times there. He denied it, but they did." Lemmons was their 30-room house at Hadley Common, decorated courtesy of an ad campaign ("Very Kingsley Amis. Very Sander-

son"), although few men could be less interested in wallpaper than Sir Kingsley. There, Jane seemed aloof from Amis's routines, preoccupied with keeping domestic order in the nine-acre garden and a house filled with his children, her mother, her brother, a painter friend and the stream of guests. Amis could write, unmoved by surroundings or possessions; he wanted only congenial company who followed his inviolable rituals, like being at the pub door just as the bolts were drawn back. Jane was left behind, "otherwise there would not have been any Sunday lunch."

"He wanted Lemmons far more than I did. I knew the family wouldn't like it, and I didn't get any work done." They moved to Gardnor House in Hampstead, where I last saw her, for her *Low-Companion* anthology in 1978: she sat working at a patchwork quilt, beautiful but abstracted; "too awe-inspiring for friendship" as she describes one of her characters. She was, in fact, ill and low in spirits, "in the last throes of trying to make things better." Things were not better. Her husband, she realised, was not only no longer in love with her; he did not even like her. It was from this house that she bolted (her word) in 1980, to become the butt of his invincible and unforgiving malevolence.

Why not write her own memoirs? A celebrated beauty who bolted from three marriages, who takes credit for Martin Amis's transformation from "amusing layabout" into disciplined scholar, would have much of interest to tell. She demurs. "What are memoirs for? They have to be



Elizabeth Jane Howard: "You can't make love happen: it's a kind of gift, like faith. How things were is a matter between Kingsley and me"

her only child, Nicola, now a grandmother of 51. "I left her [at three] in the care of her father because I had no money. I was not a good mother, but she's been awfully good about it."

After her "inevitable" second marriage (to Jim Douglas-Henry) over which she draws a veil, Amis was the *coup de foudre*. She was running the Cheltenham Festival; he came to speak. They eloped to Spain and, as a couple, seemed the epitome of literary glamour. But they ended as dramatically as they had begun.

"There's no good or easy way of leaving someone. I thought if I went off to a health farm for a fortnight, as I occasionally did, he would get used to not having me there."

"I don't hold with bolting as a practice. But for me it was a way of not becoming a fairly awful person. If I'd stayed, either I would have had to take to drink, and join him, or try to be the kind of person who did not drink but coped while he did, and I didn't feel able to do that any more. I'd coped for a long time." Even his biographer cannot explain why

drinking was such a matter of masculine challenge with him. "I now know that you can't get a person to give anything up unless they want to. If they're ranged against it, and I think he was, it's impossible. One of the cruellest things to be given such a strong constitution. I drank a frightening amount myself when young, but then I had jaundice very badly and after that it simply wasn't worthwhile to make yourself ill. That didn't happen to Kingsley: it might have given him a reason to stop. He had a tremendous constitu-

tion. He could work, whatever he felt like. He had to; it was a compulsive thing. I envy that passion. I still find writing the most frightening thing I do."

Her first bolthole was on a rat-run in Camden Town. Despite its nearness to the house Amis shared with Hilary and the Earl of Kilmarnock, they never met. But the dangers of walking at night in Camden eventually defeated her. She found instead, in Suffolk, this perfect house, with meadow, riverbank and half an island.

Here, in rural tranquillity

with her spaniel Darcy, and friends next door, she works at a feverish pace: on novels, screenplays, gardening columns. She drives herself about in a Saab and has filled the house with colour and sunlight: bright yellow parlour with inglenook; terracotta drawing room; conservatory where she serves her sorrel and spinach soup and stabs out cigarettes in a 1937 Edward VIII ashtray.

Luxuriant white hair is coiled back from exquisitely chiselled features; her cerise sweater and black leggings say "I am mistress of myself". "I feel, if you are able, it's up

'Kingsley's tragedy was his ability to drink quite so much'

to you to cope. I like knowing I've always earned my own money. I wasn't left anything by my parents, and never took any alimony, though I don't blame women who do: there is strong pressure to be the kind of woman who men like because they need to be looked after. I've made my own life, and that pleases me."

But she has made "rather a hash" of love, she says. "You can't make love happen: it's a kind of gift, like faith. You can't reason yourself into it, or even make it more likely that you encounter it. It's considered indecent at my age to have any interest in love or sex; but I know women older than me who have lovers, and good luck to them. It's tough to have it taken for granted that nobody will be interested."

"The most important things in life cannot be taught; they have to be found out for yourself. But life is so organised that you get the hang of things just when you're on the way out. It seems frightfully unfair."



THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

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Now that the sun has gone down

Robert Rhodes James on Britain's proud imperial record

A shrill cry is currently to be heard from extremist separatist movements in some Commonwealth countries, including New Zealand, to the effect that the British should apologise, and preferably grovel and pay compensation for their past treatment of the natives and for our whole colonial past. This call should be firmly resisted.

No historian of the Empire can deny that there were dark episodes in the extraordinary saga of how a very small country with a small population discovered and colonised vast areas and enormous numbers of people throughout the world. Our forebears were not uniformly admirable or gentle, and many were cruel and ruthless, but remarkably, this amazing achievement was in the main bloodless. British rule and influence were significantly, and exceptionally, benevolent. The cruelty and exploitation were puny compared with the records of the Spaniards in Latin America, and Belgians in the Congo, the Portuguese and the Germans in Africa, the French in Algeria and Indo-China, or the Dutch in their possessions. The North American Indians fared much better in British Canada than in the United States.

Every other empire in world history has disintegrated in bloody circumstances, and with enduring bitterness. The last chapters of the British Empire were, with some exceptions, totally different. Ironically, the greatest failure of all was in Ireland, so physically close but in almost every other respect so distant.

Britain's rule and contribution are now more than ever appreciated by serious historians and thoughtful people in the former colonies and dominions, where it is recognised that the arrival of the civilised British was the best thing that ever happened.

I had the advantage of being one of the last children of the British Empire. I was born and brought up in India, where my father served in the Indian Army, as did my brothers and uncle; my father lived there for 41 years, and considered independence inevitable and desirable, although as an officer in a mixed Muslim and Hindu regiment he lamented Partition. The astonishing thing about British India was that the numbers of British were so small. The vast Indian population could have obliterated us with ease. But even at the height of the "Quit India" campaign in 1942-44, my family felt no hostility.

My mother was once confronted by a menacing mob in Naiin Tal. She asked the ringleader, whom she knew well, how much he was being paid to organise this spontaneous riot. "Ten rupees," he replied. She gave him 20 to call it off, which he promptly did. The real bloodshed was inter-communal, and the awful havoc when we left was far greater than any we had inflicted.

The cause of this harmony, which lasted nearly a century, was Prince Albert, Queen

Victoria's Consort. The Indian Mutiny had been a terrible affair, which my maternal family had been fortunate to survive, and the cries for revenge were loud and intense. The Government of the day, responding to this, prepared a royal proclamation to establish a new and severe administration. The Queen, on Albert's urgings, rejected it, and he wrote that one "should breathe the feelings of generosity, benevolence, and religious feeling, pointing out the privileges which the Indians will receive in being placed on an equality with the subjects of the British Crown, and the prosperity following on the train of civilisation". The Queen wrote of her "great satisfaction and pride" at feeling "in direct communication with that enormous Empire which is so bright a jewel in her Crown, and which she would wish to see happy, contented, and peaceful". These are not the sentiments of tyranny.

So began a pattern of royal attention to the Empire, and then the Commonwealth, which lasts to this day. Indeed Maori discontent has reached fever pitch only after enormous efforts have been made to right past wrongs. Last year, New Zealand's Government offered them a settlement worth almost £500 million.

The Empire fostered a valuable sense of service

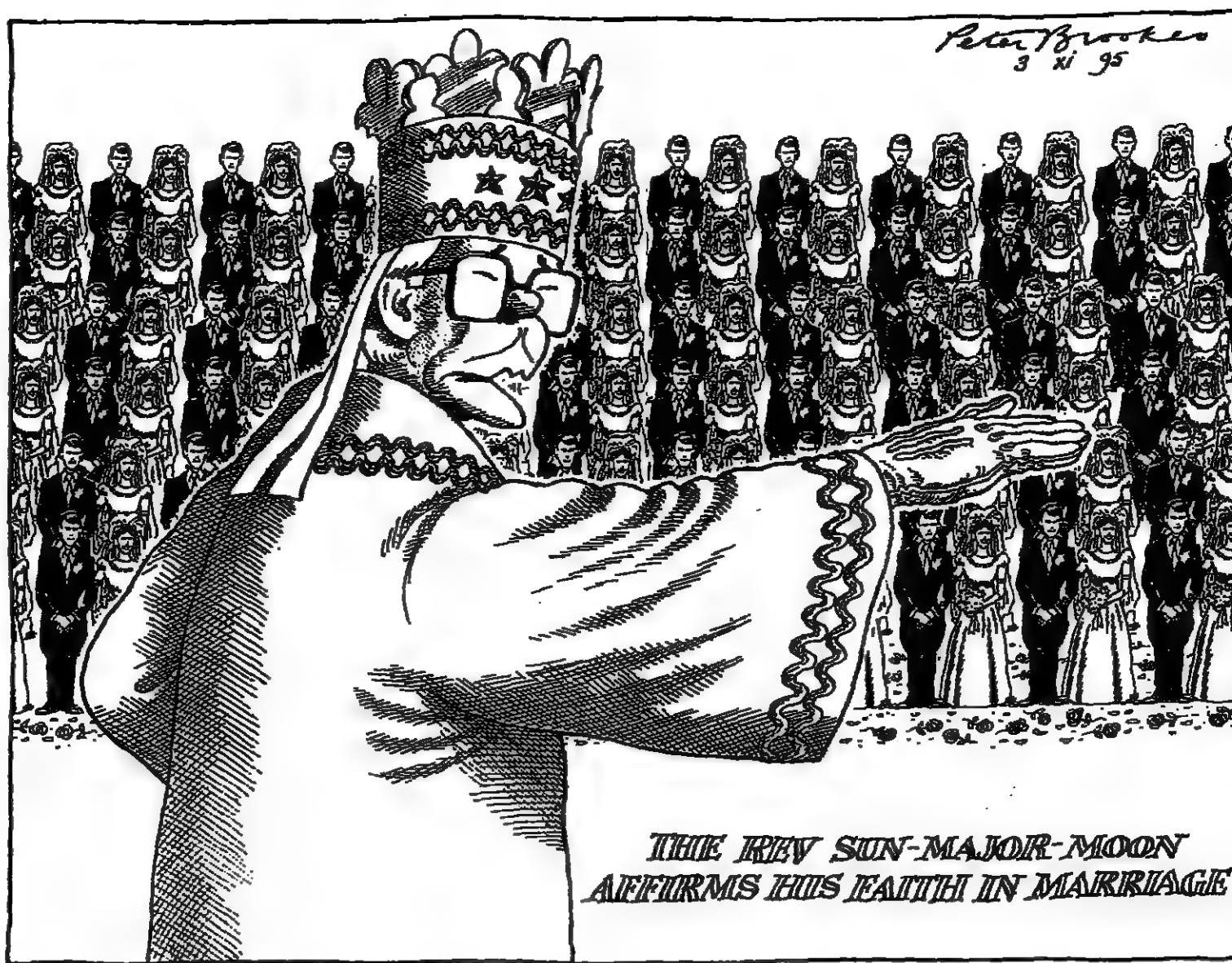
Queen Victoria's Indian famine fund appeal of 1877 raised the astonishing sum of £2 million — equivalent to at least £20 million today. King George V, on his first visit to India as Duke of York, was horrified to discover that Indians were still barred from clubs frequented by the British, and put an end to this apartheid.

King George VI never forgot his official visit, again as Duke of York, to New Zealand and Australia in 1927, and longed to return. Both he and his elder brother also had special feelings for Canada, and later for South Africa. The Queen in turn shares these affections, and modern transport has enabled her to be the most travelled and most knowledgeable of all British monarchs.

Despite its shortcomings, the Empire had a sense of service which inspired generations of colonial administrators, doctors, missionaries and teachers to work in adverse climates and often vile conditions for low pay and with the threat of early death. Blessedly, that tradition survives in British volunteers throughout the world.

If British colonialism had been as awful as some now say, hundreds of thousands of young men in the old Empire — including the gallant Maoris — would not have volunteered so enthusiastically to fight for the British cause in 1914 and 1939. The more one considers the record, the more one appreciates that "the gain hath the advantage, and the loss does not bear down the scale".

Sir Robert was MP for Cambridge 1976-82.



What price a billion?

Money men who steal are one thing, but the incompetents are quite another

I would never make a criminal. For one thing, I would leave huge numbers of fingerprints all over the place, to say nothing of my spectacles, and for another thing, if I spotted one of my own books on a shelf in the sitting-room that I had come to rob, I would take it down, settle myself comfortably on the sofa and wonder why nobody was bringing me a pot of tea. But did you read about the real criminal (this is going to seem like an Irish joke, but the man actually was an Irishman) who phoned the police to tell them that he had burgled, and was still holding the receiver when the cops arrived at the phone-box?

With which I return to my infinite fascination with those great and wise figures, those captains of High Finance (oh, yes, the capital letters must remain), those mighty brains which can understand the most intricate and detailed matters of money while we poor mortals are groping in the fog to understand even the first word the great ones speak, those cool and smiling ones (the smiles denote that the smiler has just made a deal involving not millions but billions) who are the very figures who the following week are obliged to admit that they got a few noughts in the wrong place so that the great deal has vanished, leaving no trace except a red face and some mumbled apologies, while we little ones, ignorant from our heads to our feet in money matters, have got another half per cent on our modest savings, and are very pleased to get it.

Do you remember Queens Most Gracious? The chairman made a speech. I have it. "Growth, expansion and increased earnings are our clear philosophy, and we have two billion pounds of property on our books," he said, adding that at the next shareholders' meeting there would be £80 million of profit to share. Unfortunately, at the next shareholders' meeting it turned out that the company was £1.3 billion in debt, and the shares had been suspended. And no one in QMGH was on the take; it was pure, unsullied, truthful, honest incompetence. (They came back later.)

As for IBM... But what about the crooked ones? Once when I was writing about honest old QMGH and honest old IBM, I signed off with these somewhat prophetic words: "One of Germany's most powerful and distin-

guished business figures, a Herr Schneider, has disappeared, and so has some £32 billion from the Deutsche Bank. I rest my case." But now I have to open my case again, because Herr Schneider has been found. Not in Germany, which would be de trop, but in Miami, a much pleasanter retirement spot. And he settled down so comfortably that he and his wife stayed for a year and a bit. Alas, someone who recognised him blew the whistle, and Herr Schneider is therefore awaiting extradition to Germany.

But he is not awaiting it quietly. According to Mr Henry Hamman of the FT, Herr Schneider, so far from exhibiting contrition, is spitting rage, and is denouncing the Deutsche Bank (I said that he had gone off with £32 billion, but the final tally was £5.2 billion) as scoundrels, oath-breakers, and — well, let him speak, or rather shout, himself.

Economically, with regard to me and my wife, the bank criminalised me. They accused me of being a criminal. They involved the media and through an unjustified filing for a bankruptcy petition that totally destroyed the good reputation we had enjoyed...

And when he saw the bank's reaction to his "refinancing proposals":

I knew there was no point in returning home because they basically destroyed my empire in a few days... I knew exactly how banks operate and that doesn't always mean business as usual... the banks knew where my liquid funds were located, but they had no quick direct access...

As for the Deutsche Bank, it said: "Mr Schneider's comments lie between the nonsensical and the outrageous".

And those who know me, will know that of course I am on Herr Schneider's side.

Yes, that is a shocking statement. After all, what if everybody started to cheer the crooks? Well, let me make my true confession. I would never admire or smile upon those whose

deceptions would or might touch the poor. My eyes go bright only when the really stinking billionnaires are in question, and even they take the back seat when it is a matter of banks and such.

Banks and such: what a delightful phrase! Over the years, I have flown that flag — the flag, that is, of making fools of the banks and such. In those years, I have not just catalogued the imbecilities, but have taken it up as a hobby.

The clue is that the giant bloopers are always made from the top, and my studies in this recondite but important field show it. The truth is that when billions upon billions are on the table, they cease to be real, and even cease to be visible. I lick my lips at a headline reading "Tokyo regulators knew of huge loss run up by Daiwa". For those even more ignorant than I am in these matters, I should say that "Daiwa" is not the name of some sweetie-pie who persuades a humble clerk to shift a few noughts so he can buy her a diamond necklace, but the name of the very bank in question.

But the first words of the story told it all: "The Japanese Government acknowledged on Monday that it knew of a \$1.1 billion loss by a rogue trader at the Daiwa Bank six weeks before American regulators were informed." But it gets much better: "In that period the Japanese Ministry of Finance did not act on the information, nor did it inform their American counterparts, officials said. When the loss was finally announced, in late September, it rattled the world financial community and raised new questions about the solidity of the Japanese banking system."

But it gets funnier yet, because a Japanese Cabinet minister, Tomoharu Tazawara, who has somehow got himself into this murky business, is the Justice Minister, no less. Nor does the meretricious end here: the whole business, it seems, pivots on something called a "secret deal": Mr

Tazawara called a press conference and said: "Swearing by my conscience, I have never done such a secret deal" — but immediately resigned.

Meanwhile, did you know that in the Japanese Parliament there is a party called the Clean Government Party, which is also mixed up with the now famous secret deal?

Yes, I have fun among the millions, but I don't just laugh and go home. Remember what I said earlier: "The truth is that when billions upon billions are on the table, they cease to be real, and even cease to be visible." Take the man who first spotted the Daiwa scam: what did he think as the truth rolled out in the Daiwa Bank's New York office? Consider: Toshihide Iguchi had been at his amazing task for 11 years, years in which he lost for the Daiwa Bank more than \$1 billion, and forged no fewer than 30,000 documents to keep his giant scam afloat.

I deceived you: there was no "man" who first spotted the Daiwa scam", because Mr Iguchi himself felt that it was time to confess, and confess he did. But if he hadn't confessed, he would presumably be doing the same thing until he died, and no one would have pointed out that there was a substantial hole in the accounts.

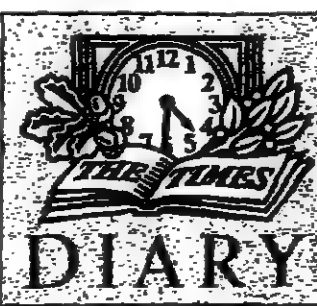
And please don't raise an eyebrow and wink, murmuring that the Japanese are a very different race. They are, but however different is their diet, the colour of their hair, and their quaint habit of sticking scimitars into their stomachs (and often other people's) they know the price of a loaf of bread.

But just like us, they don't know the price of a billion dollars. Just look at the similarities in what happened in the Daiwa Bank. A crook had embedded himself in the bank: that happens regularly in Britain. They try to hush it up; so do we. They fail to do it; they put up a sacrifice and boot him out; we do exactly the same. They lie as long as they can; oh, so do we! They say that their shareholders are in no danger, whereupon the shares immediately collapse; the very same.

You still deny? Well, then, how about the Prime Minister of France, M. Juppé, who is now said to be rather bent, and the Secretary-General of Nato, M. Claes, who seems to have been rather more so. Beat that.

Stop Press: Sweden's Deputy Prime Minister has been caught fiddling credit cards. Alas, we shall never see Gummer's hand in the till.

Bernard Levin



take to have an all-women shortlist. All of the constituencies are resisting any such imposition.

"It's proving to be a frightful problem," says one old hand. "And in addition there are rumours that the autocrats in Tony Blair's office are trying to find the Tory defector Alan Howarth a seat in London."

Nonsense, it's nothing to do with Howarth, replies the London Labour Party, which admits that all-women shortlists are far from popular in some quarters.

Of a feather

THE QUEEN was introduced to a reclusive kiwi, the New Zealand national bird, yesterday in Rotorua. Her Majesty was attired in a ceremonial robe of kiwi feathers, as Kes the one-legged kiwi was held up for her inspection. "Kes did not seem pleased to see her," said an observer, "probably because she was wearing all those kiwi feathers. Kes had also been woken up to meet her, because kiwis are nocturnal, and he looked grumpy."

The kiwi, one-legged and grumpy as it may have been, came as light relief. Rotorua is famous for its geysers, but for long minutes even "old faithful" refused to perform. "Everyone was extremely relieved when they finally gurgled into action for the royal party."

Ladies, please

THE LONDON Labour Party has tied itself up in knots trying to select candidates for the general election for five constituencies in the capital. The hold-up seems to be Labour's insistence that one of the five constituencies must under-

Lightweight

ON THE EVE of Sir Nicholas Lloyd's resignation from the Editor's chair at the *Daily Express* this week, his wife, Eve Pollard, was the talk of a Westminster party. The former editor, whose voluptuous form has long been a re-



"Relax, Ma'am, he's not Canadian"

markable sight on the cocktail circuit, is looking remarkably trim. She denied suggestions of brutal diet and exercise regimes. "It's just that I don't have business lunches any more," she protested.

Cueing up

THE CONVIVIAL world of gentlemen's club snooker has been shaken by the appearance in smoky basements of the professional player. For the first time in its four-year existence, the Hine Clubs Snooker

Championship has been wrested from the Royal Automobile Club by the Oriental Club. The victors were primed for the final showdown by Ray Reardon, the six-time world champion. "It couldn't have been closer, but Ray gave us that extra sharpness just to clinch victory," says a jubilant member of the Oriental. "It's not ungentlemanly to take tips from a pro."

Flag day

A RED flag is to fly once again over Tony Blair's local town hall. Despite Islington council's cash shortage, old-style socialists have demanded that the Labour Party should shell out for the ensign against the wishes of the new Labourites, to replace the one that mysteriously disappeared.

Council leader Alan Clinton insists that the purchase will not fall on council taxpayers, and the flag will not sport the hammer and sickle. But critics are not impressed. "They're playing silly games at the expense of the people of Islington," says Steve Hitchens of the Liberal Democrats. "It's amazing they can splash out on a new red flag when they are charging poor pensioners for attending day centres."

P.H.S

Philip Howard



Good story or good archaeology? Take your pick

So the Kensington Stone has bobbed to the surface again. You would think it was bals or Styrofoam rather than tons of granite. Television and the more glib newspaper, which like to take their stories neat from advance publicity for television programmes rather than spending time and ingenuity hunting for them, have astonished the world with tales of this old stone.

The Kensington rock has nothing to do with the chic royal borough. It comes from the muddier Kensington in Minnesota, and purports to show that Vikings reached the heartlands of America more than a century before the tourist Columbus. The stone was "discovered" by a Swedish immigrant farmer in the roots of a tree in 1898, with an inscription in rude Scandinavian runes and Latin alphabet asserting that it was carved by Vikings in 1362. Since then the petroglyph has become America's Stonehenge, a cult symbol of the ancientness of the white man in America and the importance of Scandinavian immigrants. It is visited by thousands every year. Minnesota displays a 22-ton granite replica in Rumsden Memorial Park. A director of the Bureau of American Ethnology at the Smithsonian has declared it "the most important archaeological object yet found in North America".

And yet it has been proved to be a fake and a hoax over and over again. Glyn Daniel, the Cambridge University Professor (no relation) and the television star who made archaeology a popular science, must be chortling in the great dig in the sky. Every ten years he was called upon to demolish the Kensington Stone in *Antiquity*, even though three Scandinavian runic experts declared it "a crude fraud, perpetrated by a Swede with the aid of a chisel and a meagre knowledge of runic letters" as early as 1899. Since then archaeologists, geologists, philologists and runic dons have all closely demonstrated that it is a fake. One of the hoaxes even made a death-bed confession that it had been forged as "a hell of a good joke".

So the stone is an object from the lunatic fringe of archaeology, a monument to American/Scandinavian humour. But this does not stop professors bringing out books by suppressing their doubts. The public loves to see the experts embarrassed, is excited by this archetypal myth of finding a new world, and is always willing to plunge uncritically into the wider vasts of archaeology.

Contemporaries such as Sam Johnson and David Hume recognised Ossian and his Gaelic poem *Fingal* as forgeries, but they could not prevent James Macpherson's hoax from having a huge influence on the Romantic movement. Ossian was compared to Homer by scholars on the make, and Gray was moved to write: "Imagination dwelt many hundred years ago in all her pomp on the cold and barren mountains of Scotland." Imagination certainly, Tom, but it dwelt only a few years ago in a garret in the New Town in Edinburgh. Stonehenge was piled up thousands of years before the Celts invaded Britain. But this does not discourage otherwise sane citizens from dressing up in white sheets as Druids and worshipping there on midsummer's eve.

We have moved to fresher missing links since Piltdown Man. But the Vinland Map, another in the museum of Scandinavian forgeries, still attracts support, though its ink was made after 1920. In spite of carbon-dating, pious fools still believe in the Turin Shroud. Richard of Cirencester's *Roman Britain* fooled the Royal Ordnance Survey into copying it, despite being a palpable crib made out of gobblets of Tacitus and Caesar and forged four centuries after Richard toiled in his scriptorium. The Vermeers forged by Hans van Meegeren fooled the susceptible and greedy art world, and even now fetch good prices at auction — though not as good as a true Vermeer would.

An important academic function is to shoot down lies and rebut fakes. This branch of *haute vulgarisation* takes patience, love of getting things shipshape and a tolerance of being thought a spoilsport. The world prefers its myths to its facts, and fairy-stories satisfy the soft part of human nature. Nevertheless, that Kensington Stone is a fake as old and crooked as a left-handed corkscrew with knobs on.

Chez Jay

BRITAIN is to have a new Ambassador in Paris. The present incumbent, Sir Christopher Mallaby, will be replaced by Michael Jay, 49, the lofty individual who steered John Major through the choppy waters of the Maastricht treaty.

His appointment has yet to be announced by the Foreign Office, where Jay is deputy under-secretary and director for the EU and economic affairs. But the selection of a chap with such a friendly disposition towards Europe can only serve to strengthen the new *entente cordiale* between John Major and Jacques Chirac.

"He's an egghead," said one mandarin. "Terribly bright. He has risen effortlessly to the top even though he looks as if he's walked straight from Planet Boffin."

Jay (Winchester and Magdalen College, Oxford) is expected to assume his new mantle next year at the most splendid and costly foreign outpost, where Oscar Wilde, Proust and Liszt all dined.

His appointment has not been received well by Pauline Neville-Jones, the 55-year-old director of policy at the Foreign Office, who was tipped to become the first female ambassador to a major

country. "She's been pipped to the post on this one," said a diplomat. "She's in a frightful state."

Michael Winner was proving uncharacteristically camera-shy on Wednesday night at London's Belvedere Restaurant for the Charles Heidsieck champagne reception. "I brought my secretary to this party," he explained. "And I



Pauline: pipped for the post



One of the Government's main aims is to create jobs for women, who can be found working in boiler rooms, as welders, and in the pharmaceutical industry

Economy reaps rich harvest

Democracy has given people hope, Christopher Thomas writes

After nine economically disastrous years of dictatorship, Bangladesh has introduced reforms that would have been inconceivable before the arrival of democracy in 1991. This watery, densely populated country, battered throughout its young life by political and natural calamities, at last has reason for cautious hope.

Many of its primary objectives are ambitious and often controversial: rapid industrialisation, an end to protectionism, creation of new industries specifically for the employment of women and the overhaul of nationalised corporations. The turnaround in many areas has been impressive, although poverty grinds on. The Bangladesh that Henry Kissinger called a basketcase, and which Joan Baez sang about in a ballad on starvation, is not the one that greets visitors to the flat, delta landscape beyond the heaving cities.

Every scrap of land is intensely cultivated and bellies are not empty: the nation is self-sufficient in rice, and nobody dies of starvation. The world, harbouring an outdated image, fails to give credit to Bangladesh.

Increased economic activity is demonstrated by greater shows of wealth in Dhaka. Beyond the chaotic central area a new crop of huge houses has grown up, all with new cars in the driveways; men with cellular telephones can be seen doing business over lunch in five-star hotels, and chauffeured limousines with darkened windows weave through the bedlam of downtown Dhaka.

But Bangladesh does not talk, as does India, of the poor benefiting

eventually from the trickle-down theory. As a senior Western diplomat observed: "The problems here are too vast for that. Poverty must be tackled head-on, with special programmes targeted at specific problems."

Half the country's 119 million people live in poverty and, for most, there is no foreseeable prospect of a significantly better life. A quarter of the people live in absolute poverty, meaning they barely have the means to survive.

The crucial question is whether its fractious politicians will continue destroying the fragile democratic

experiment with strikes and demonstrations, which have cost one of the world's poorest countries dearly in money and reputation.

Saifur Rahman, the respected Finance Minister, during his budget speech in June spoke of "colossal mismanagement of public utilities and public industrial corporations, which operate with little accountability or performance standards". He declared that worsening performances by Government-owned industries were a drag on growth and exacerbated the financial difficulties of public banks, which are in a

parious state because of huge loans they gave to the industries.

The World Bank, full of praise for many of the reforms introduced so far, laments that the changes have stalled. But it points to some promising signs: there has been prolonged macroeconomic stability, inflation was held below 2 per cent for two consecutive years (although it has lately shot up to around 6 per cent), the external current account deficit is down, balance of payments are healthy and foreign exchange reserves have risen to the equivalent of seven or eight months of imports.

The poverty crisis is being confronted at the grassroots through education. Theoretically there has been compulsory primary education since 1993, although most children never see the inside of a real classroom. Tubewells are being sunk to provide clean drinking water, and sanitation is being installed at many primary schools. A "food for education" programme, a model for other countries, encourages poor families to send children to school instead of throwing them into a sea of exploited child labourers.

Not so many years ago almost every penny of development money came from foreign aid, but now Bangladesh is meeting more than 30 per cent of the bill.

The Government says infant death rates fell from 105 per thousand in 1970 to 88 last year and that life expectancy has risen from 50 to 58. More than half of children under five, however, remain severely or moderately malnourished.

Both farming and industry are bedevilled by power cuts, although most big factories have installed their own generators. It would cost \$3 billion dollars to upgrade power generation to meet demand, so the Government has opened power generation to the private sector. However, extensive privatisation has proved too risky a political adventure.

One Western observer says: "The business classes, which have become export-orientated, complain bitterly about the politicians. For the sake of the country there has to be political compromise."

Hungry for investment

Sound finance policies have won plaudits, Ahmed Fazl reports

Bangladesh is fast emerging as a Third World success story. Despite overwhelming odds posed by annual flooding and cyclones, one of the world's most crowded nations not only feeds itself but is on the threshold of becoming a net food exporter.

Over the past four and a half years government policy has focused on bringing about macro-economic stability, promoting private sector initiatives and developing human resources. Now Bangladesh can lay claim to having South Asia's best managed economy, and present itself as a land of investment opportunity.

Dhaka is aiming for a growth of 6 per cent in GDP in 1995 after achieving growth of 5 per cent last year. Saifur Rahman, the Minister of Finance and architect of the reforms programme, says: "The Bangladesh economy is now at the threshold of faster growth." The country is reaping the harvest of the bold and pragmatic reforms which have created a resilient economic base. The industrial sector is growing annually by 10 per cent, and exports by 20 per cent.

The liberalisation of the economy has attracted the interest of overseas investors. In the past four years, a total of 2,303 industrial units have been registered with the Government's Board of Investment (BOI) involving a total investment of \$1.4 billion. BOI officials said 253 of the registrations are foreign investment projects accounting for an investment of more than \$696 million.

The trend of investment has been rising since 1994 and a total of 923 investment projects, including 148 joint ventures or 100 per cent foreign investment enterprises, were registered with the BOI. Investors come from North America, Europe, the Far East, South-East Asia and South Asia.

Foreign investors are attracted to Bangladesh because

the country has successfully carried out major reforms in its trade policy by liberalising imports, rationalising taxation rules and making the Bangladesh taka convertible.

Private investment from overseas sources is welcome in almost all areas of the economy. Bangladesh law protects foreign investment against nationalisation and expropriation. The Government guarantees repatriation of capital and equal treatment with local investors.

Relatively cheap and easily trainable labour is abundantly available in Bangladesh. Almost 45 per cent of the total population of 120 million comprise the workforce. The country offers unconditional 100 per cent foreign equity or ownership in industrial investment and generous tax holidays.

There is practically no restriction on issuing work permits to a foreign national and the laws for granting permanent residency and citizenship to foreign investors have been greatly liberalised.

On the other hand, the divestiture of previously state-owned enterprises has provided challenging opportunities for entrepreneurs. Reforms have eliminated restrictions on trade, investment and foreign exchange.

The dismantling of the state-controlled economic order has unleashed the creative energy of the nation. Enormous investment prospects exist in the manufactured export sectors such as composite textiles, the leather industry, frozen food, power generation, oil and gas exploration, telecommunication, electronics and agro-based industries.

As the economy pulsates with higher production and growth from new factories and its meticulously cultivated rice fields on the flat delta countryside, Bangladeshis hope that their country's image as an international "basketcase" is at last beginning to fade.

Largest joint venture sets sail

WHEN a ship carrying 12,000 tonnes of refrigerated ammonia sailed from the Bangladesh port of Chittagong bound for California in January this year, it marked the realisation of an ambitious 20-year project to establish the nation's largest multinational joint venture.

One of the country's few natural resources is an abundance of natural gas and this self-sufficiency in nitrogenous fertilisers persuaded the World Bank in 1981 that the construction of an export-orientated fertiliser plant could earn foreign currency.

A consortium involving the British, Japanese, Danish and Bangla-

deshi Governments and four large multinationals created the Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company (Kafco) and built a \$510 million plant on 70 acres of land on the bank of the River Karnaphuli.

Kafco is producing about 575 million tonnes of ammonia a year for export, worth \$150 million, making it the country's largest single earner of foreign exchange. It has seven-year agreements with the Marubeni Corporation of Japan and Transammonia AG of Switzerland for marketing and sale of its entire production of ammonia and urea.

Most of Kafco's ammonia will be exported to the east coast of India with supplies also going to Taiwan, South Korea and the Philippines. Building the plant created 2,000 local jobs.

Manucher Towhidi, the Kafco managing director, says: "There is no better symbol of a major foreign investment in Bangladesh and no better message to the world." It would demonstrate, he said, what could be achieved in Bangladesh and create confidence among international companies and financial institutions.

MICHAEL KNIPE

KAFCO

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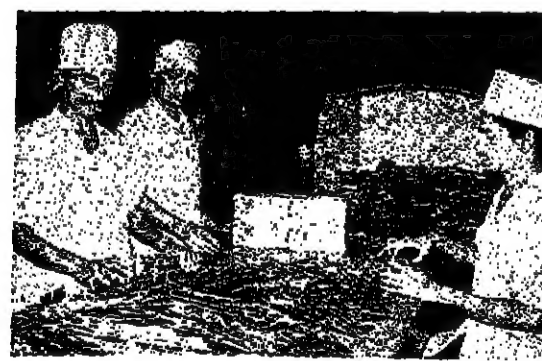
Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Japan
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Bangladesh—the land of

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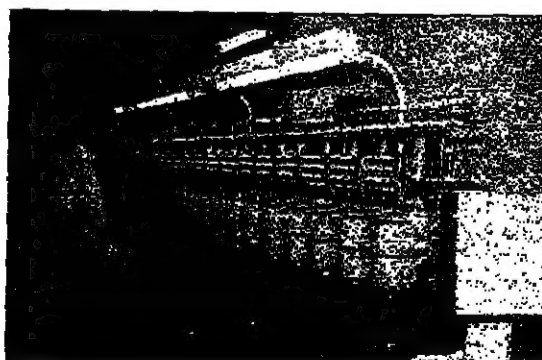
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the country has successfully
carried out major reforms in
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Despite investment from
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Islam the key to birth control

Bangladesh's family planning programme is a model for the rest of South Asia, which has one billion inhabitants. The average number of children per family has fallen from almost seven to fewer than three.

In the 1970s almost nobody in this overcrowded country used contraceptives; today half of fertile couples do so. Nevertheless, because Bangladeshis are predominantly young, the population of 119 million is expected to reach at least 200 million within 30 years before it levels off. It is already one of the world's most crowded countries and soaring numbers will lead, inevitably, to worsening social problems.

The key to curbing population growth has been to win over the Islamic clergy, which used to be hostile to family planning. Much of the credit for this goes to Mizanur Rahman, the director of the

Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, who organised seminars and conferences to convince clergymen that neither the Koran nor the sayings of the Prophet opposed restrictions in family sizes. Indeed, he argued that the Koran specifically stated that couples should not have more children than they can support.

While some clergymen still discourage the use of contraceptives, "at least 70 per cent are in favour of family planning," says Mr. Rahman. Many still oppose their sale in shops, however.

One in seven Bangladeshis children dies before the age of five because of acute poverty. Almost all children are born without a professional assis-

tant on hand and births generally take place in unhygienic conditions.

Bangladesh relies exclusively on imported contraceptives. Sometimes they run out, or there are brand changes that upset people. Men generally do not use condoms and the most popular form of birth control is the Pill. The first condom manufacturing plant is to be built soon.

"This is a male-dominated society," Mr. Rahman said. "Men increasingly do not object to their wives using contraceptives but they will not take the initiative themselves."

The Family Planning Association involved journalists in its programmes and held seminars to explain its objectives,

resulting in reduced hostility from the press and, eventually, active support. There is now little press or political opposition to family planning. However, South Asia's population grows by 24 million people a year, primarily because of India's increase.

The association is campaigning for a higher legal minimum age for marriage, improved female literacy and modification of laws of inheritance to ensure equal rights to parents' properties for sons and daughters.

Present inheritance laws make it imperative for families to have a son. The association's field workers try to persuade people that large families are not necessarily an

insurance policy for old age. Bangladesh's population has doubled since 1961. The problem has been worsened by increased life expectancy, which has gone up from 50 to 58. "Everything is against us - poor communications, low literacy among women and a conviction that large families are best," Mr. Rahman says. "Despite this we have made tremendous progress. We may have to wait two or three years before starting to talk about the merits of one-child families: you cannot push these things too quickly. What is important is that we are changing people's attitudes."

Bangladesh's population is still increasing by two million people a year. More than

23,000 female field workers travel from house-to-house giving information on family planning and advising illiterate women how to take the Pill. Another 11,000 workers from non-government organ-

isations add to the effort. A campaign has also been started to persuade women to breastfeed children for two-and-a-half years, because that reduces their fertility. Several hundred market

hawkers have also been drawn into the effort, using their crowd-pulling skills to sell contraceptives. This helps to overcome embarrassment and social resistance to family planning. "We have one of the most comprehensive family programmes in Asia," Mr. Rahman said, "but we have a long way to go."

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS



The garment trade earned £1.4 billion in exports in the last financial year

Rag trade success gives women work

A fter phenomenal growth in the past 15 years, Bangladesh's ready-made garment manufacturers are vying for a slice of the more lucrative global fashionwear market, writes Ahmed Fazl. Exporters and market analysts say the burgeoning industry is now preparing to produce brand names in children's wear, suits, women's clothes and super quality garments.

S.M. Fazlul Huq, a leading garment manufacturer in Dhaka, says: "It's a crucial phase because now we will be entering the quality market where buyers will be more fussy about style and finish."

From a modest beginning in 1978 as a non-traditional export sector earning £4 million in 1981, the industry is now billed as the best hope for Bangladesh to come out of the "poverty trap". In 1994-95, export earnings from this sector reached £1.4 billion. Export earnings should be almost £2 billion by 2000.

Bangladesh is the fifth largest exporter to the United States and the European countries. Most of the shirts and T-shirts worn in the EU are made in Bangladesh.

Besides contributing 63 per cent of total foreign exchange earnings of the country, gar-

ment making has become the largest source of employment generation. About 1.4 million people, 90 per cent women, work in the garment sector and its ancillary industries.

Today Bangladesh has some 2,200 garment factories mostly located in and around Dhaka and its southern port cities of Chittagong and Khulna. But only 4 per cent of the 2.25 billion yards of fabric required by the industry could be supplied by local textile manufacturers last year. The rest was imported.

An exhibition of garment products in Dhaka in October attracted a huge number of foreign buyers who made spot orders worth £16 million.

The garment industry is also leading to social change. "This industry has created for the first time large-scale employment opportunity for women," said Redwan Ahmed, a member of parliament. Women from poverty-stricken families in the countryside fill up most of the skilled and semi-skilled jobs in the garment factories, earning up to taka 4,000 (£63) a month.

The sight of young women descending on Dhaka's streets every morning clutching lunch-boxes and making their way to the factories indicates great social change.

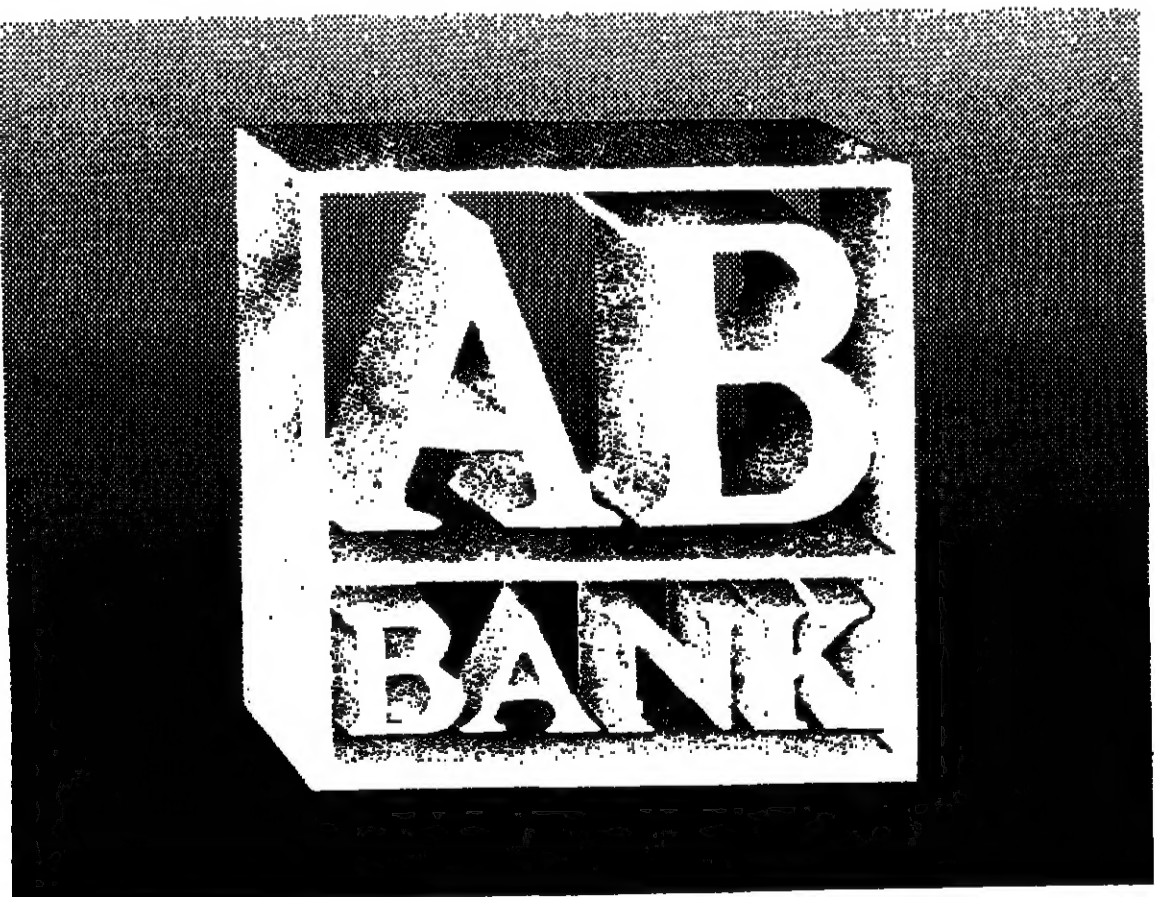
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